

THE  
TOWN OF DEDHAM  
250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  

---

1636-1886



Class \_\_\_\_\_

Book \_\_\_\_\_

SMITHSONIAN DEPOSIT









PROCEEDINGS  
AT THE  
*Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary*  
OF THE INCORPORATION  
OF THE  
TOWN OF DEDHAM.







5

Dedham Towne Book for the Entering and Recording  
of all such things as we are or shall be for the Government  
there of. as followeth,

The Covenant

- 1 We whose names are here unto subscribed. doe in the fear  
and Reverence of our Almighty God mutually: and generally  
promise amongst our selves. and each to other. To observe and  
performe one kinde according to that most just rule. the  
consideration where of is Enclaving here:
- 2 That we shall by all means endeavour to keep us from  
all such as are contrary minded. And we shall only just  
unto us. as we be such as may be really. if one hath  
us. as that we either knowe or may well and truly be  
informed to with in a reasonable conversation with all  
the members of this of the Edification of each other in the  
knowledge and faith of the Lord Jesus. And the mutual encouragement  
unto all Democrall comforts in all things. seeking the good of  
each other both of all which may be done in true Peace.
- 3 That if at any time Differences shall arise betweene  
of our said Towne. that then such as shall be  
before all such Differences. unto some one. 2. or 3. of them of our  
said Towne to be fully answered and determined without any  
further delaye if it possibly may be:
- 4 That every man that now or at any time hereafter shall have  
possession of our said Towne shall paye his share in all such taxes of  
money. and charges as shall be imposed upon him. Rateably in  
proportion with other men. And also he shall be ready to have  
all such taxes and contributions. and shall be ready to have  
or charge. now or at any time hereafter. from this date  
wards. as well for having and comfortable service in our said  
Towne. as also for the expenses and charges for the service of our  
said Hellenshire. especially respecting the service of God in  
which we desire to beginne and continue. what so ever we shall  
by his loving favour take in hand.
- 5 And for the better manifestation of our true resolution  
here in. every man so concerned. to subscribe here unto his  
name. thereby obliging both himself and his Successors after  
him. to the same. as we have done.

The Covenant here photographed was "with one accord agreed upon" at the first recorded meeting of the Dedham Proprietors, Aug. 18, 1636. It is in the hand-writing of EDWARD ALLEYN, the first Town Clerk, and the leader of the Company, who was, without doubt, the author.

DON GLEASON HILL,  
Town Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS  
AT THE  
CELEBRATION  
OF THE  
Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary  
OF THE INCORPORATION  
OF THE  
TOWN OF DEDHAM,  
MASSACHUSETTS,

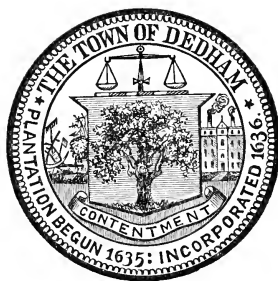
SEPTEMBER 21, 1886.

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CAMBRIDGE:  
JOHN WILSON AND SON.  
University Press.  
1887.



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# CONTENTS.



	PAGE
EXTRACT FROM RECORDS OF THE COLONY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY IN NEW ENGLAND . . . . .	ix

## Preliminary Action of the Town.

TOWN-MEETING, APRIL 6, 1885, AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE . . . . .	9
ACTION OF THE DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY:	
Preliminary Meeting, June 3, 1885 . . . . .	9
Adjourned Meeting, Sept. 2, 1885 . . . . .	10
Public Meeting, Sept. 14, 1885 . . . . .	10
ANNUAL TOWN-MEETING, MARCH 1, 1886, AND REPORT OF COMMITTEE . . . . .	10
MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS APPOINTED BY THE TOWN . . . . .	15
LIST OF SUB-COMMITTEES . . . . .	16
INVITED GUESTS . . . . .	18

## The Celebration.

MORNING CONCERTS . . . . .	22
THE PROCESSION . . . . .	23

	PAGE
SERVICES IN THE CHURCH.	
ORIGINAL ODE AND VERSES. BY FREDERIC J. STIMSON . . . . .	32
PRAYER, BY REV. JOSEPH B. SEABURY . . . . .	34
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER, HON. THOMAS L. WAKEFIELD . . . . .	36
ORIGINAL HYMN, BY REV. SETH C. BEACH . . . . .	39
HISTORICAL ADDRESS, BY ERASTUS WORTHINGTON . . . . .	40
FORTY-FOURTH PSALM . . . . .	104
BENEDICTION, BY REV. SETH C. BEACH . . . . .	104
THE DINNER.	
ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DAY . . . . .	107
INVOCATION, BY REV. GEORGE W. COOKE . . . . .	108
ADDRESS OF HON. FREDERICK D. ELY . . . . .	108
„ GOVERNOR ROBINSON . . . . .	112
„ HON. HUGH O'BRIEN, MAYOR OF BOSTON . . . . .	121
„ DR. GEORGE E. ELLIS . . . . .	123
„ DR. WILLIAM EVERETT . . . . .	128
„ DR. DWIGHT . . . . .	131
„ ERASTUS WORTHINGTON, ESQ. . . . .	132
„ COLONEL ELLIS . . . . .	135
„ WINSLOW WARREN, ESQ. . . . .	139
„ REV. ROBERT J. JOHNSON . . . . .	141
„ ALONZO B. WENTWORTH, ESQ. . . . .	149
CLOSING EXERCISES AT THE TENT . . . . .	151
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EVENING CONCERTS, FIREWORKS, ETC. . . . .	151
FINAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS . . . . .	152

# CONTENTS.

vii

PAGE

THE HISTORICAL COLLECTION . . . . .	153
REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC TABLETS AND MONU- MENTS . . . . .	155
The Burial-place . . . . .	157
The Training-field . . . . .	163
The First Dam and Mill . . . . .	165
The Pillar of Liberty . . . . .	170
The Powder House . . . . .	177
HISTORIC HOUSES AND PLACES . . . . .	185
The Avery Oak . . . . .	185
The Fairbanks House . . . . .	185
Houses of the Ministers of the Dedham Churches . . .	186
The Dexter House . . . . .	187
House of Dr. Nathaniel Ames . . . . .	188
House of Fisher Ames . . . . .	189
The Haven House . . . . .	190
The Dowse House . . . . .	191
The Shuttleworth House . . . . .	193
The Woodward Tavern . . . . .	193
Site of other Historic Places . . . . .	194
FINAL ACTION OF THE TOWN . . . . .	196

## APPENDIX.

I. ODE AND VERSES. MUSIC BY ARTHUR W. THAYER .	199
II. ANNIVERSARY POEM, BY CHARLES A. MACKINTOSH .	205
III-IX. NOTES . . . . .	208-214





EXTRACT FROM THE RECORDS OF THE COLONY OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS BAY IN NEW ENGLAND.

---

*At the Generall Court houlden at Boston, September  
8<sup>th</sup>, @ 1636.*

ORDERED, that the plantation to bee settled above the falls of Charles Ryver, shall have three yeares immunity frō publike charges, as Concord had, to bee accounted from the first of May next, & the name of the said plantation is to bee Deddam to enioy all that land on the southerly & easterly side of Charles Ryver not formerly graunted to any towne, or p̃ticuler psons, & also to have five miles square on the other side of the ryver./

SHURTLEFF, Vol. I. pp. 179, 180.



## PRELIMINARY ACTION OF THE TOWN.

---

AT a Town Meeting held April 6, 1885, the subject of celebrating the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Dedham was referred to a Committee consisting of

WALDO COLBURN.

ERASTUS WORTHINGTON.

HENRY O. HILDRETH.

DON GLEASON HILL.

HENRY SMITH.

ERASTUS E. GAY.

CALVIN S. LOCKE.

BENJAMIN WEATHERBEE.

DANIEL A. LYNCH.

ALONZO B. WENTWORTH.

JOHN W. CHASE.

JOHN CROWLEY.

STEPHEN M. WELD.

JULIUS H. TUTTLE.

CHAUNCEY C. CHURCHILL.

Pending the action of this committee, a meeting of the Dedham Historical Society was held June 3, 1885, at which it was unanimously voted that the Society celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the *settlement* of Dedham; and Messrs. ERASTUS WORTHINGTON, CARLOS SLAFTER, and DON GLEASON HILL were appointed a committee to con-

sider the subject, and report at an adjourned meeting, June 17. At this meeting the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee of Arrangements : —

ALFRED HEWINS.

CORNELIUS A. TAFT.

JOHN H. BURDAKIN.

JOSEPH GUILD.

JULIUS H. TUTTLE.

ARTHUR M. BACKUS.

At an adjourned meeting held September 2, it was voted, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee of Arrangements, that a public meeting of the Society should be held at the Unitarian Vestry on Monday evening, September 14, and the Committee were instructed to give a general invitation to all residents of Dedham, and to others interested in the history of Dedham, to attend.

In accordance with this vote the meeting was held Monday evening, Sept. 14, 1885, at the Unitarian Vestry, which was filled with a large and attentive audience. The meeting was called to order by HENRY O. HILDRETH, President of the Society; and interesting papers were read by ERASTUS WORTHINGTON upon "Indian Titles and the Indian Village of Natick;" by CARLOS SLAFTER upon "The Ancient Burying Place of Dedham;" by Rev. CALVIN S. LOCKE upon "Incidents in the History of West Dedham;" and by HENRY O. HILDRETH upon "Some of the Old Dedham Houses."

At the Annual Town Meeting, March 1, 1886, the Committee appointed April 6, 1885, submitted

the following report through their chairman, ERASTUS WORTHINGTON, Esq.:—

The Committee appointed at the last April Town Meeting, to whom was referred the article in the warrant for said meeting respecting the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, with power to procure any necessary authority from the General Court respecting the same, do now respectfully report as follows:—

Having assumed it to be the will of the people of Dedham that there should be some appropriate observance of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town, the only questions remaining to be considered relate to the manner of such observance. Fortunately we find a good precedent to guide us in the second centennial celebration of 1836. The most substantial departure from the observances of that occasion which we would recommend is the expenditure of a moderate sum in restoring and preserving a few historical monuments, now in danger of decay,—such as the Powder House, erected by a vote of the town in 1766, which needs repairs, and the stone erected by citizens in the same year to commemorate the repeal of the Stamp Act, which should be replaced and suitably protected,—and marking them by tablets giving their history, and also placing similar historic tablets upon the Avery Oak, the old cemetery, and the training-field, and perhaps a few other historic spots. We shall thus leave permanent marks of our interest in their preservation for the example of future generations.

The expense of a centennial celebration in many of the towns has been met by an appropriation from the town treasury. It was so done in this town, either wholly or in part, in 1836, although not then authorized by law.

Such celebrations have been generally regarded as events of a deeper and wider significance than mere holiday entertainments. They interest all the citizens of the town, and so the practice has been nearly uniform to provide for them at the common expense. For several years such appropriations have been authorized by general laws, now incorporated with the Public Statutes. But in order to avoid the possible question that a centennial anniversary is not a two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and also to obtain the needful authority to raise money for historic tablets and monuments, in pursuance of the authority given us, we applied to the General Court, and a special law has been passed giving to the town full power to raise money for these purposes.

The provisions of the act are very similar to those of an act passed in 1885 relating to the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the town of Concord. It authorizes the town of Dedham to raise by taxation a sum of money not exceeding one tenth of one per cent of its assessed valuation in 1885,—being the same limit fixed in the Public Statutes, for the purpose of celebrating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Dedham, and of erecting tablets or monuments to mark places and objects of historic interest, and of restoring and preserving any such existing monuments in said town. The maximum limit fixed by this act is very much larger than we shall need to raise, and of course it may be any sum below that limit.

Following the plan of a similar committee in 1836, we have agreed upon a general plan of the celebration, which we recommend for adoption by the town.

We recommend that Tuesday, the 21st day of September, be observed as the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the incorporation of the town,—Sept. 21, 1836,

having been celebrated as the two hundredth anniversary, — it being a convenient day therefor.

We further recommend that the exercises of the day be substantially as follows: —

1. That the bells of the town be rung and a salute of fifty guns fired at sunrise.

2. That there be a concert in the morning by the children of the public schools on the green of the First Parish Church.

3. That there be a procession with an escort, which shall move with the invited guests to one of the churches in Dedham village, where there shall be appropriate exercises, including an historical address and vocal music.

4. That the citizens be invited to decorate their houses.

5. That at the conclusion of the exercises the procession be re-formed and march to Memorial Hall, where a dinner shall be provided for the invited guests and holders of tickets.

6. That his Excellency the Governor, the member of Congress from this district, members of the General Court from Norfolk County, the judge of the Probate Court and other county officers, the selectmen of the respective towns that once formed a part of Dedham, the presidents of the Massachusetts Historical Society and New England Historic Genealogical Society, and of other historical societies in Norfolk County, and such other persons as the Committee of Arrangements may decide to be entitled to such invitation, be invited to attend the exercises in the church, and also the dinner, as guests of the town.

7. That the bells be rung and a salute fired at sunset.

We also recommend that a committee of arrangements, to consist of seven members, be chosen at this meeting, with full power to carry out such arrangements, and also any further arrangements that may be found necessary by them, including the selection of an orator, president of the day, and chief marshal, and the appointment of any special

committees they may deem expedient, and the filling of any vacancies occurring in their own number.

We further recommend that a committee to consist of three members be appointed at this meeting to erect tablets or monuments to mark places of historic interest, and to do what may be necessary to restore and preserve existing monuments.

We recommend that the sum of fifteen hundred dollars be raised and appropriated to carry into effect all the foregoing recommendations, from which a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars may be expended for tablets and monuments.

We would respectfully recommend that the following named gentlemen serve as the Committee of Arrangements: —

WINSLOW WARREN.	JOHN R. BULLARD.
HENRY SMITH.	GEORGE FRED. WILLIAMS.
ERASTUS E. GAY.	JOHN CROWLEY.
CHARLES A. MACKINTOSH.	

We also recommend that the following named gentlemen serve as the Committee on Tablets and Monuments: —

ERASTUS WORTHINGTON.	HENRY O. HILDRETH.
DON GLEASON HILL.	

Respectfully submitted.

DEDHAM, March 1, 1886.

It was voted that this report be accepted and its recommendations adopted, and that the sum of



fifteen hundred dollars be raised and appropriated for the purposes set forth in said report.

At an adjourned Town Meeting held April 19, 1886, the Committee of Arrangements having asked for an additional appropriation of one thousand dollars, the town voted the sum asked for, coupled with the condition that no part of said sum, or of any sum heretofore appropriated by the town for the celebration, should be expended for alcoholic liquors, or for wines, ale, or beer.

The Committee of Arrangements appointed by the Town for the celebration, Sept. 21, 1886,—Messrs. Winslow Warren, Henry Smith, Erastus E. Gay, John R. Bullard, George Fred. Williams, John Crowley, and Charles A. Mackintosh,—met March 8, 1886, at the Town Clerk's office, and organized by the choice of

WINSLOW WARREN . . . . .	<i>Chairman.</i>
CHARLES A. MACKINTOSH . . . . .	<i>Secretary.</i>
JOHN R. BULLARD . . . . .	<i>Treasurer.</i>

At a subsequent meeting, Mr. Mackintosh having, on account of necessary absence from the town, resigned as a member of the Committee, JULIUS H. TUTTLE was chosen in his place as a member of the Committee and as Secretary.

The Committee invited ERASTUS WORTHINGTON to deliver the oration, THOMAS L. WAKEFIELD to preside at the exercises in the church, FREDERICK D. ELY to preside at the dinner, Gen. STEPHEN M.

WELD to act as chief-marshal, Rev. SETH C. BEACH to write a hymn for the occasion, ARTHUR W. THAYER to conduct the musical exercises, and CHARLES J. CAPEN to act as organist. These gentlemen having accepted, other committees were chosen as follows:—

#### Reception Committee.

LUSHER G. BAKER, Jr., <i>Chairman.</i>	CHARLES M. BOYD.
JOHN L. WAKEFIELD.	ALBERT F. FISHER.
HARRY B. ALDEN.	LEWIS D. SMITH.
EDWARD CAPEN.	HARRY E. FRENCH.

#### Cashiers for the Exercises at the Church, Dinner, and Evening Entertainment at Memorial Hall.

LUSHER G. BAKER, Jr., <i>Chairman.</i>	LEWIS D. SMITH.
JOHN L. WAKEFIELD.	HARRY E. FRENCH.
EDWARD CAPEN.	FRED. E. SMITH.
HARRY B. ALDEN.	MOSES E. BAKER.
CHARLES E. CONANT.	ALFRED B. PAGE.
JOHN W. BOYD.	GARDNER PERRY.
CHARLES M. BOYD.	BENJAMIN FISHER.
ALBERT F. FISHER.	THEODORE T. MARSH.
FRANK M. WAKEFIELD.	BERNARD T. SCHERMERHORN.
FRED. W. RICE.	

#### Dinner Committee.

CHARLES W. WOLCOTT, <i>Chairman.</i>	HARRY B. ALDEN.
CHARLES E. CONANT.	EDWARD CAPEN.
EDWARD T. BAKER.	JOHN L. WAKEFIELD.
FRED. A. CORMERAIS.	LEWIS D. SMITH.
ALBERT F. FISHER.	FRED. E. SMITH.

**Committee on Decorations.**

JOHN H. BURDAKIN, <i>Chairman.</i>	FRANK M. BAILEY.
HENRY HITCHINGS.	PHILANDER S. YOUNG.
CORNELIUS A. TAFT.	J. VARNUM ABBOTT.
EDWARD CAPEN.	CARL L. T. MARKWARD.

**Committee on Fireworks.**

GEORGE R. JOHNSTONE.

**Committee on Bell-ringing.**

ERASTUS E. GAY.	GEORGE W. PHILLIPS.
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**Committee on Historic Collection.**

HENRY O. HILDRETH, <i>Chairman.</i>	MISS ABBY E. GUILD.
HENRY G. GUILD, <i>Secretary.</i>	MRS. ALFRED HEWINS.
EDWARD CAPEN, <i>Treasurer.</i>	HENRY HITCHINGS.
Mrs. GEORGE F. FISHER.	GEORGE W. HUMPHREY.
MISS SADIE B. BAKER.	ELMER P. MORSE.
MISS HELEN A. BROWNE.	THOMAS MURPHY.
MISS ANNA F. COLBURN.	MISS DELIA W. SOUTHGATE.
MISS ELLEN H. CREHORE.	Mrs. CORNELIUS A. TAFT.
MISS SUSAN D. ELLIS.	MISS MARY L. TALBOT.
MISS ANNIE R. FISHER.	Mrs. JULIUS H. TUTTLE.
GEORGE F. FISHER.	JOHN L. WAKEFIELD.
Mrs. JOSEPH FISHER.	Mrs. GEORGE E. WHITING.
ERASTUS E. GAY.	MISS C. M. WORTHINGTON.

The following gentlemen were invited to the celebration :—

His Excellency Gov. GEORGE D.	Hon. M. M. FISHER.
ROBINSON and Staff.	FISHER AMES, Esq.
Lieut.-Gov. AMES.	Hon. HORACE FAIRBANKS.
Hon. HENRY B. PIERCE.	Hon. GEORGE H. MONROE.
Hon. A. W. BEARD.	FISHER A. BAKER, Esq.
Hon. E. J. SHERMAN.	Hon. JOHN J. CLARKE.
Hon. CHARLES R. LADD.	Hon. GEORGE SHELTON.
Hon. MARCUS MORTON.	SAMUEL B. NOYES, Esq.
Hon. LINCOLN F. BRIGHAM.	Rev. EDWARD G. PORTER.
Hon. GEORGE F. HOAR.	THOMAS DUNBAR, Esq.
Hon. HENRY L. DAWES.	CHARLES H. WALCOTT, Esq.
Hon. HORACE GRAY.	B. B. TORREY, Esq.
Hon. L. B. COLT.	JOSEPH W. CLARK, Esq.
Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP.	ALBERT W. NICKERSON, Esq.
Hon. JOHN D. LONG.	JOHN J. LOUD, Esq.
Hon. LEVERETT SALTONSTALL.	W. C. BURRAGE, Esq.
Hon. GEORGE M. STEARNS.	HENRY W. DWIGHT, Esq.
Hon. A. E. PILLSBURY.	THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND
Hon. JOHN E. FITZGERALD.	OTHER OFFICIALS OF NORFOLK
Hon. J. Q. A. BRACKETT.	COUNTY.
Hon. HUGH O'BRIEN.	THE TOWN OFFICERS OF DEDHAM.
Hon. GEORGE WHITE.	THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEDHAM
Hon. WILLIAM GASTON.	HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
Dr. WILLIAM EVERETT.	THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEDHAM
President CHARLES W. ELIOT.	PUBLIC LIBRARY.
President TIMOTHY DWIGHT.	THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT-
Hon. WARREN E. LOCKE.	MEN OF . . . MEDFIELD.
Hon. JOHN H. GOULD.	" " WRENTHAM.
Rev. Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS.	" " NEEDHAM.
Hon. MARSHALL P. WILDER.	" " BELLINGHAM.
Hon. THOMAS RUSSELL.	" " WALPOLE.
Hon. HENRY CABOT LODGE.	" " CANTON.
Hon. ROBERT R. BISHOP.	" " FRANKLIN.
Hon. S. C. COBB.	" " DOVER.
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, Esq..	" " HYDE PARK.
EVERETT C. BUMPUS, Esq.	" " NORWOOD.
HENRY A. WHITNEY, Esq.	" " NORFOLK.
ALBERT A. FOLSOM, Esq.	" " WELLESLEY.
Hon. F. W. BIRD.	

And also IRA CLEVELAND, Esq., surviving member of the Committee of Arrangements, and the following gentlemen, surviving marshals of the procession at the Two Hundredth Anniversary :—

IRA RUSSELL.

JOHN D. COLBURN.

BENJAMIN BOYDEN.

THEODORE METCALF.

---

*The Committee on Tablets.*

ERASTUS WORTHINGTON.

HENRY O. HILDRETH.

DON GLEASON HILL.

This Committee removed the Pitts Head monument to the Church Green, renewed its inscriptions, and placed upon it a bronze tablet ; repaired the Old Powder House ; appropriately designated by stone monuments the Old Training Field, the Old Burial Place, and the First Dam built in the town ; and upon the day of the celebration designated by conspicuous inscriptions the sites of the old houses and other points of interest. A full report of the work of the Committee will be found in another part of this volume.



## THE CELEBRATION.

---

TUESDAY, Sept. 21, 1886, was one of the most beautiful of our autumnal days. Through the efficiency of the Committee on Decorations, aided by the enthusiasm of the citizens generally, the town was elaborately decorated, and presented a most attractive holiday appearance. The Unitarian Church, where the address was delivered,—the same building in which the exercises at the bi-centennial celebration in 1836 had been held,—was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreen; the vestry, near by, was filled with a most interesting collection of historical relics; a large tent had been erected for the dinner upon the Richards Field on High Street; band-stands had been placed at prominent points; and the public buildings and residences were gay with flags and bunting. At sunrise a national salute was fired from the hill opposite the Dye House at East Dedham, and the bells of the various churches were rung. At an early hour crowds of people poured into the

town, and at least fifteen thousand persons witnessed the celebration.

From 7.30 A. M. to 8 A. M. a concert was given by the Norwood Band at Boyden & Bailey's Square at East Dedham ; from 8 to 9 a concert was given on the Church Green by the Cadet Band of Boston ; and the children of the public schools, gathered in front of the church, sang national airs under the direction of Mr. Arthur W. Thayer. This was one of the most attractive and interesting features of the celebration.

At 10 o'clock an express train arrived from Boston, bringing the Independent Corps of Cadets escorting the Governor and staff and invited guests, who were at once assigned carriages, and a long procession, which had been promptly formed under the marshalship of Gen. STEPHEN M. WELD, moved over the designated route, a governor's salute being fired from the hill as the procession started.

The procession was formed in the following order : The first division on Church Street, with the right resting on High ; the second division on Washington and Bryant streets, with right at School ; the third division on Washington Street, with right at Bryant ; the fourth division on School Street, with right on Washington Street ; the fifth division on Washington, north side of High Street, with right resting on High. Each division was ordered to be in line at 9.30 A. M., at which time they were inspected by the chief marshal. The



route was as follows, starting at Memorial Hall: High to Eastern Avenue, Eastern Avenue to East, East to Walnut, Walnut to High, High to Washington, Washington to School, School to Court, Court to Village Avenue, Village Avenue to High, High to Court. The parade was dismissed at Memorial Hall Square.

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## THE PROCESSION.

THE formation of the procession was as follows :

Platoon of Police, mounted.

*Chief Marshal.*

GEN. STEPHEN M. WELD.

Color Yellow.

### EXECUTIVE STAFF.

<i>Chief of Staff</i> . . . . .	AMASA GUILD.
<i>Adjutant-General</i> . . . . .	JOSEPH H. LATHROP.
<i>Quartermaster</i> . . . . .	E. SCOTT MORSE.
<i>Surgeon</i> . . . . .	DR. JOHN W. CHASE.
<i>Chaplain</i> . . . . .	REV. E. A. HOWARD.
<i>Bugler</i> . . . . .	THEODORE COLBURN

### *Special Aids.*

COL. JAMES M. ELLIS.	CHARLES E. CONANT.
FRED. J. BAKER.	HENRY P. QUINCY.
HORATIO G. TURNER.	OWEN J. REYNOLDS.
JOHN B. FISHER.	GEORGE W. WEATHERBEE.

*General Staff.*

FRANKLIN COPELAND.	JAMES Y. NOYES.
DANIEL A. LYNCH.	HERBERT FRENCH.
PHILANDER S. YOUNG.	FRANK E. MORSE.
WILLIAM H. LORD.	CHARLES H. ELLIS.
JOSEPH COLBURN.	CHARLES WARREN.
JOHN L. WAKEFIELD.	GARDNER PERRY.
HENRY FULLER.	JOHN R. BULLARD, JR.
WILLIAM B. GOULD.	A. R. WELD.
JOSEPH L. FISHER.	F. F. NORRIS.
HENRY E. WEATHERBEE.	E. M. WELD.
THERON B. AMES.	EDGAR MURPHY.
CREIGHTON COLBURN.	H. T. MCCLEARN, JR.
JOSEPH H. WALLEY.	JOSEPH C. HOPPIN.

FRED. E. SMITH, *Color-Bearer.*

---

FIRST DIVISION.

Color Blue.

*Chief of Division,* GEN. THOMAS SHERWIN.

*Staff.*

COL. JOSEPH STEDMAN.	EDWARD SHERWIN.
DAVID L. HODGES.	JOSEPH GUILD.

Post 144, G. A. R., Dedham, HENRY W. WEEKS, Commander.

Post 117, G. A. R., Medfield, JOHN H. PEMBER, Commander.

Norwood National Band.

Post 121, G. A. R., Hyde Park, E. S. CHURCHILL, Commander.

Post 157, G. A. R., Walpole, J. C. MADIGAN, Commander.

Post 169, G. A. R., Norwood, ALBERT G. WEBB, Commander.

Post 181, G. A. R., Needham, A. D. KINGSBURY, Commander.

Boston Cadet Band.

First Corps of Cadets, Lt.-Col. THOMAS F. EDMANDS commanding,  
escorting

His Excellency, Governor GEORGE D. ROBINSON and Staff.

Invited Guests and Town Officials, in carriages.

## SECOND DIVISION.

Color Red.

WALDO WEATHERBEE, *Color-Bearer*.

Dedham Fire Department.

GEORGE A. GUILD, Chief Engineer.

EBENEZER GOULD, FRANCIS SOULE, Assistants.

Norwood Band. 27 pieces.

Steamer Relief and Hose Co. No. 1, Dedham, H. A. PHIPPS, Foreman.  
15 men ; with Steamer and Hose Carriage.

Hero Hose Co. 2, with Carriage, J. KEEHN, Foreman. 12 men.

Niagara Hose Co. No. 3, East Dedham, with Carriage,  
JAMES FINN, Foreman. 14 men.

F. H. WALKER and F. W. TURNER, Assistant Engineers of Nor-  
wood Fire Department.

Norwood Hook and Ladder Truck No. 1, EDWARD MOORE, Fore-  
man. 15 men.

GEORGE A. MORSE, Chief Engineer of Medfield Fire Department.

Excelsior Hook and Ladder Truck, Medfield, E. BULLARD, Foreman.  
20 men.

Hyde Park Fife and Drum Corps. 20 men.

H. G. BALKAM, Chief Engineer of Hyde Park Fire Department.

R. WILLIAMS, R. CORSON, Assistants.

Hose 1, A. R. WILLIAMS, Foreman.

Hose 2, M. ROGERS, Foreman.

Hook and Ladder Truck No. 1, R. SCOTT, JR., Foreman.  
(Three companies. 30 men in line.)

Apparatus, Steamer 2, Truck 1, Hose 1.

Lion Engine No. 2, West Dedham, W. C. FULLER, Foreman.  
12 men.

Norfolk Engine No. 6, West Dedham, J. HANNON, Jr., Foreman.  
12 men.

Franklin Engine No. 8, West Dedham, GEORGE G. BONNEY,  
Foreman. 20 men.

Rescue Hook and Ladder No. 1, Dedham Village, GEORGE HOGAN,  
Foreman. 10 men.

Supply Wagon.

### THIRD DIVISION.

Color White.

Baldwin's Cadet Band.

*Chief of Division*, HENRY E. CROCKER.

*Staff.*

GUY C. CHANNELL. J. H. BURDETT.

D. F. HOWARD. E. J. COX.

WILLARD E. JONES.

ARTHUR WHITMAN, *Color-Bearer*.

School Children of Dedham.

Boys of the several schools, 275 in number, marching in line, 4 abreast.

Girls of the several schools in barges, 9 in number.

Barge containing inmates of the Boys' Home, Dedham.

### FOURTH DIVISION.

Color Purple.

Drum and Fife.

*Chief of Division*, F. F. FAVOR.

*Staff.*

B. F. WHITE. J. B. SMITH.

E. A. CHASE. C. A. COTTON.

E. P. CASSELL, JR., *Color-Bearer*.

Company of Continentals, 50 strong, under command of Captain  
DANIEL R. BECKFORD, Lieuts. SMITH and PARTRIDGE.

*Honorary Staff Officers of Continentals.*

J. H. GRIGGS, Adjutant ; S. G. BENT, Ensign, 73 years old, carrying  
the old Pine-Tree Standard ; RICHARD MACKINTOSH, HENRY  
T. MCCLEARN, FRANK M. BAILEY, SAMUEL J. J.  
WATSON, F. J. BINGHAM, C. L. COTTON.

FIRST FLOAT. — First Inhabitants. 1630. Wigwam surrounded by  
pine branches and shocks of Indian corn. Original inhabitants,  
savages, personated by CHAUNCEY S. CHURCHILL, as Big Chief ;  
H. L. WARDLE, C. F. FOSS, E. E. NORRIS, F. E. CLAPP, HENRY  
S. BAKER.

SECOND FLOAT. — The coming of the First Settlers from Water-  
town to Dedham in 1635, represented as coming by boat. The  
first settlers were correctly personated by MARTIN HANSON and  
his son JOHN, two daughters, Misses MARIA and DELIA, and  
Misses ANNIE and BERTHA KIESSLING, Miss ANNIE MCGEE, and  
HERMAN WEBER.

THIRD FLOAT. — A House in 1636. Log-cabin, covered with spoils  
of the early backwoods days in shape of fox, raccoon, skunk, and  
other skins. Characters : Settler, personated by HENRY CHAM-  
BERLAIN ; his wife, at spinning-wheel, Miss DOLLY WALE.

FOURTH FLOAT. — Capture of Indian Chief POMHAM in Dedham  
Woods, July 25, 1676. POMHAM personated by DANIEL R. BECK-  
FORD, Jr. ; Indians, by R. J. FITZGERALD, C. E. LUCE, JOSEPH C.  
MCMANUS, W. M. MATTA ; Puritans, by FRED. E. ROBINSON, as  
Captain, FRANK GREEN, GEORGE CARTWRIGHT, JAMES KELTIE,  
VICTOR REEVE.

FIFTH FLOAT. — Capture of a Royal Governor by a Dedham man,  
April 19, 1689. Royal Governor, Sir EDMUND ANDROS, person-  
ated by CHARLES H. J. KIMBALL ; his page, by R. W. WALKER ;  
DANIEL FISHER, who captured him, by H. K. WHITE, Jr. ; and his  
men by A. H. and E. A. WATSON, R. CARTWRIGHT, F. H.  
WRIGHT, DANIEL McDONALD.

SIXTH FLOAT. — Guarding Wife and Children to Church in 1690.  
Scene, winter ; place, woodland. Characters : Settler, IRVING  
DONLEY, armed with old flintlock ; his son, GEORGE PAUL, also  
armed ; his wife, Miss MARY C. ELLIS ; his daughter, little Miss  
EMMA DONLEY.

SEVENTH FLOAT. — Minute-man, 1775. Personated by EDWARD J. KEELAN, who, with one hand on the plough and the other on his musket, presented a correct and striking picture of New England's hardy and courageous sons, ready at a moment's notice to hasten forth to do and die for American Liberty, — witness Concord, Lexington, Bunker Hill. The musket Mr. KEELAN carried is a historical relic, an old flintlock of 1779. This tableau was awarded much applause along the line of march.

EIGHTH FLOAT. — Husking-party in 1826. A merry party busily at work husking the golden ears of corn. Personated by ANDREW WHEELER, as grandfather; JAKE, his son, WILLIAM PARKER; Mrs. M. A. NICHOLS, as grandmother; Misses LINEY WHEELER, MILLIE KREIS, GUSSIE GRAYDON, MINNIE FITZGERALD, and Masters EDWARD WILLCUTT, HERBERT CROSBY, HARRY CHAMBERLAIN, EDDIE WELCH, and little WILLIE WHEELER, as grandchildren.

NINTH FLOAT. — Old Father Time and the Seasons. Characters: Old Father Time, PHILIP J. WIELAND; Spring, Miss LOTTIE WIELAND; Summer, JULIUS DELMUTH; Autumn, KARL WAGNER; Winter, Miss MINNIE ZIKENDRATH.

TENTH. — Old Stage-coach.

ELEVENTH. — Modern Tally-ho. The Boston and Providence Citizens' Stage-coach Company; TIMOTHY GAY, President; THOMAS P. BROWN, Agent. Personated by members of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.

TWELFTH. — J. E. SMITH riding a fat Ox. Mr. SMITH's oxmanship was much admired by the spectators along the route.

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## FIFTH DIVISION.

Color Green.

*Chief of Staff*, JOHN WARDLE, JR.

*Staff*.

B. F. COPELAND.

CHARLES W. TUCKER.

R. S. CLISBY.

SAMUEL C. FRENCH.

LAWRENCE W. FEENEY, *Color-Bearer*.

This Division was composed of the Trade exhibits of the town, and was in line as follows: —

West Dedham Grange, No. 133, four-horse team driven by JOHN ROGERS, containing old-fashioned farming implements as used by the hardy toilers of Dedham in 1636, and those now in use in 1886 ; over and among which were arranged grains in sheaves, and vegetables.

B. F. COPELAND, a team loaded down with the products of plant, vine, and tree, with JOHN SULLIVAN as driver.

Merchants' Woollen Mills — HARDING, COLBY, & CO., owners ; TIMOTHY O'CALLAGHAN, Agent — made a very fine display in two teams. First team, four horses, EDGAR DEAN, driver, contained a loom, with AUGUST DANNER, who has had an experience of thirty-three years at the loom, — a weaver at the mills in East Dedham since 1853. On the front seat with its owner, SAMUEL ROBINSON, was a live sheep, and arranged about the team were the products made from the fleecy coat of that most useful animal, from the time it leaves its back until it becomes cloth. The second team, P. HOWE, driver, contained cloth cased ready for the market.

NATHANIEL MORSE, two teams : one loaded with the several kinds of fertilizers of which he is agent, JOHN MCGEE, driver ; the other filled with bales of pressed hay and bags of grain, W. NELSON, driver.

CHARLES FRENCH, a four-horse team, load of wood decorated with American flags, R. J. BUCHANAN, driver.

AMORY FISHER, three teams, representing his business of coal, grain, and ice-dealer ; established in 1854.

Franklin Square Market made an excellent showing of meats, vegetables, and fruits.

T. F. O'NEIL made a handsome display of groceries, tastefully arranged.

S. A. TUTTLE made a display of his business as veterinary surgeon.

W. C. FULLER, a team-load of house-moving implements. Team neatly decorated with flowers ; H. T. PLACE, driver.

G. W. FRENCH, load of wood, decorated with National colors, with a horse and saw on top as a suggestive hint ; WILLIAM ELLSWORTH, driver.

PHILANDER ALLEN exhibited a four-horse load of marble monuments and gravestones ; while in the rear of the team workman THOMAS DONNELLY showed how marble-cutting was done.

J. LYNAS made a fine display of horse-blankets and harnesses.

CARL P. E. ZIEGLER made an excellent showing, in a handsomely decorated team, of carriage mats and robes, harnesses, and upholstery articles.

WILLIAM BAKER exhibited his business of whip-manufacturer in a team uniquely arranged ; A. W. FINNEY, driver.

G. A. FRENCH made an exhibit of his business as a grocer ; G. E. BONNEY, driver.

M. KEELAN, hardware-dealer, made a good showing of stoves.

F. C. WEEKS exhibited a load of provisions.

MARSHALL, the expressman, with horse and team decorated with magenta plumes, and LEWIS J. HOUGHTON, the veteran, twenty-one years in the business, as driver, made a good showing of how business is done in modern times.

WALLIS WHITING, assisted by THOMAS PROCTOR, Jr., and Master WITHINGTON, as Puritans, showed how cider was made in 1636.

W. S. MACOMBER exhibited a wagon-load of furniture and carpets.

J. E. SMITH represented his business of provision-dealer.

C. F. MACOMBER exhibited a neatly arranged load of carpenter's tools, paints, etc.

CHARLES WINSCHMAN, in a prettily decorated team, showed how cigars were made. FRANK THIEL assisted him.

GODING BROTHERS made a good display of grain in bags in two teams. Each pyramid of bags was surmounted by a small ever-green tree.

C. S. CHURCHILL had two teams in line ; one with a load of bricks in barrels, the other with coal.

MORIS GREENHOOD, in a neatly decorated team, advertised his business as a clothing-dealer.

P. B. GAFFNEY ended the division with a team-load of live-stock, representing his business as a butcher and marketman. The team was separated into three pens, containing respectively a big hog, a calf, and a pair of lambs, of which J. F. MORAN had charge.



At precisely 12 o'clock the procession arrived on the Church Green, where the Governor and staff and invited guests reviewed it from the band-stand on the Green, the marshals being drawn up near the stand. At this hour the chimes were rung upon the Episcopal Church, and a national salute was fired.

At 12.30, the review being over, the procession was dismissed, and the Governor and guests entered the church.

At 11.30 the galleries of the church had been opened to ladies, and upon the arrival of the procession and the entry of the Governor and guests to the church the building was crowded to its utmost capacity, and presented a most brilliant appearance. The pulpit had been elaborately decorated with plants, flowers, and evergreen, and upon a platform in front sat the Governor and staff; the Orator of the Day, ERASTUS WORTHINGTON; the President, THOMAS L. WAKEFIELD; President TIMOTHY DWIGHT, of Yale College, Hon. JOHN D. LONG, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, and other invited guests.

# SERVICES IN THE CHURCH.

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## I.

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY.

By CHARLES J. CAPEN.

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## II.

### ORIGINAL ODE AND VERSES.

By FREDERIC J. STIMSON.

Music composed by ARTHUR W. THAYER.<sup>1</sup>

ATHWART the way our fathers laid  
The summer sunlight falls ;  
The elms our fathers set still shade  
The road, 'twixt church and pasture made ;  
The stones their ploughshares first uplaid  
Still lie in mossy walls.

Down from the western hills our own  
Still, roaming river runs,  
Content in Dedham's arms alone  
To lie, and mirror spire and stone ;  
The robin to our fathers known,  
Still sings for us, their sons.

<sup>1</sup> For the music, see pages 199-204.

*Strophe.*

For the fulness of earth,  
 For the light of the sky,  
 For their death, for our birth,  
 For the heritage high  
 Born of the word of light,  
 Won by the deed of might,  
 Saved by the sowing of sight ;  
 For the light in the eyes and the love in the hearts of men that brings  
 Men to be brave in war and true in the love of all things ;  
 Glory of deed that is past,  
 Safety of State that is fast,  
 Hope that is now and shall last ;  
 For the flower and the fruit,  
 For the eye and the word,  
 For the tree and its root,  
 For the sleep of the sword, —  
 We praise thee, our Lord.

The harvest falls from broader fields,  
 The waning woods are few ;  
 Food for the world their homestead yields,  
 All earth's oppressed their shelter shields,  
 A nation's nervèd arm now wields  
 The truth that first they knew.

Be not alone a harvest won  
 Of gold, from labored hours ;  
 Undo not what their hands have done,  
 Nor bind with wealth they sought to shun ;  
 Still ring the bells at set of sun, —  
 Our fathers' God, and ours.

*Antistrophe.*

From sins of the few,  
 From crimes of the many,  
 From prophets untrue,  
 From rule of the penny ;

Crime, that ignorance frees ;  
Lust, that is born of ease ;  
Hate, that is born of these ;  
From the curse of false lights, and worship of earth, and then  
Doubt, and forgetting of God, and death of the soul in men ;  
Wealth, that is easy won,  
Freedom, too soon undone,  
Malice, that masks the sun ;  
From conflict of class,  
From rage falsely stirred,  
From greed of who has,  
From death of thy word, —  
Deliver us, Lord.

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## III.

## PRAYER.

BY REV. JOSEPH B. SEABURY.

**O** LORD God of Hosts, Ruler of nations and of men, we adore Thee as our father's God. Obedient to Thy voice, we "remember the days of old." With devout gratitude for Thy present favor, "we ask for the old paths."

We bless Thee for our honored heritage, for the simple virtues, the ripe wisdom, the kindly graces, the spiritual fortitude that distinguished our fathers. We would not be unmindful of the trials through which they passed, loyal to an unerring conscience. Grant that we may have power to discern the deep principles for which they suffered banishment from native land, that they might rear on a free soil the enduring monument of justice to personal convic-

tion, liberty to fellow-men, and "the honor that is due unto Thy name."

We remember with self-distrust their fealty to the cause of education, that the school and the church were made to grow together, the pledge and promise of an intelligent Christian commonwealth.

We give Thee thanks for their valiant rebuke of injustice at the hands of the mother-country, for that patriotic response which met the appeal to arms for the assertion of independence, when the white-haired veteran and the youthful volunteer stood side by side in the heat of battle. We thank Thee for that holy impulse which suddenly transformed the patriot civilian into the patriot soldier.

We bless Thee for the unrecorded fidelity of our ancestors, for the faithful but tranquil labor of the husbandman, who, from year to year sowed the seed in springtime and reaped the harvest in autumn, — they whose memory is chronicled in simple epitaph; for the industrious mother who taught her sons and daughters with tender and patient affection, that she might present them in mature life, an honor to their station, "meet for the Master's use."

We devoutly recall that this rich patrimony of sterling worth has come down to us in unbroken continuity, that we are closely and intimately related to the early past. Thou hast taught us in

Thy servants, our fathers, that "The Lord's portion is His people."

We would not seek to patronize their virtues. We sit humbly at their feet. We cherish the soil that tabernacles their dust. We would memorialize their deeds in lives of filial devotion to humanity, truth, and God. May the joyous commemorations of this day inspire us to strengthen the things that remain, bind us more closely together in charity and hope, that we may grow thereby into the likeness of Him who died and rose again, their Saviour and ours, in whose name we pray. AMEN.

Mr. Seabury concluded with the Lord's prayer, in which many of those present joined.

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IV.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER.

HON. THOMAS L. WAKEFIELD.

FELLOW-CITIZENS, — We have assembled in commemoration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the incorporation of the Dedham of 1636. This ancient town was not limited to the boundaries of this our present municipality, but included within its limits the present towns of Dedham, Medfield, Wrentham, Medway, Needham, Bellingham, Walpole, Franklin, Dover, Norwood, Norfolk, Wellesley, Millis, and parts of Sherborn,

Natick, Foxborough, Hyde Park, and the city of Boston. We, who are honored by retaining the old name, welcome you all, sons and daughters of the ancient Dedham, back to the old hearthstone, to join with us in this celebration. We unitedly bid a hearty welcome to your Excellency, the Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth, and to all others in authority; to all invited guests; to all veterans of the several Grand Army Corps; to all military and civil organizations; and to all other good citizens who have come up hither to honor us with their presence and participate with us in the celebration of this interesting anniversary.

On Sept. 10 (old style), 1636, the General Court granted to nineteen persons the land forming ancient Dedham for the purpose of making a settlement, — a common plantation. These nineteen persons were the sole proprietors of these common lands, subject to any claims of the Indians who inhabited them, until they admitted associates.

They adopted a town covenant, or constitution, as we might call it, by which they were governed, and under which others, upon strict examination as to fitness, were admitted as inhabitants of the town, by signing the covenant binding them to fulfil its provisions. Subsequently the Indian titles were extinguished by equitable contract with Philip, the Sagamore, and the Sachems Chicatabot, Josias, Nehoiden, and Magus, whereupon their title became absolute.

The proprietors of this then infant township increased in numbers by constant additions from without; defended their rude but happy homes from the attacks of the hostile and treacherous Indians by whom they were surrounded; introduced the arts of industry and civilization; and with sturdy hands, year by year, turned the forests into fruitful fields, and caused the wilderness to blossom as the rose.

When these first inhabitants came to this place, there were no general laws in the colony to regulate their intercourse and protect their lives and interests. They were a law unto themselves. As was said by a worthy historian of the town: "They formed a civil society out of its first simple elements." This society originated in a compact; the laws derived their force from the consent of the people. This, with other similar settlements, "was the beginning of the American system of government."

These little communities of Pilgrims, imbued with the idea of religious liberty in their native country, thus began in this then wilderness land to lay the foundations of a democratic civil government, upon which has been reared this grand superstructure of a free and independent republic. With pious care in establishing schools for the education of the children, and churches with devoted teachers and ministers of the gospel for their spiritual instruction, under the fostering care of the Colonial and



subsequently the State governments, this little community has grown from infancy to mature age.

We meet on this occasion to celebrate its birthday with mutual congratulations, and to recount the virtues and heroic deeds of the fathers. In the felicitous language of the orator upon the two hundredth birthday of the town, which may well be repeated as often as this birthday celebration occurs, permit me to say: "Citizens of Dedham, you will find in your history much to gratify your just pride, much to excite honorable emulation. By intelligent and godly ancestors was this town planted; by a manly and virtuous race has it been nourished and sustained. Its sons have fought the battles of their country; they have led in its councils. At no time, in no manner, have they failed to contribute an honorable share of the talent, the patriotism, the domestic virtues, which created and have built up this great Republic."



## V.

## ORIGINAL HYMN.

BY REV. SETH C. BEACH.

TUNE — "Dedham."

To Him who formed the rolling spheres  
And guides them on their way,  
The circle of a thousand years  
Is but as yesterday.

Secure in His eternal might  
Our fathers braved the sea,  
And founded here in truth and right  
An empire of the free.

He made the few and weak His care,  
And gave their seed increase ;  
He listened to His children's prayer,  
And led them on to peace.

As unto them, thou God of grace,  
Still be from age to age ;  
Still grant the favor of Thy face,  
And bless our heritage.



## VI.

## HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

BY ERASTUS WORTHINGTON.

WE mark to-day the lapse of two hundred and fifty years since the name of Dedham was given to the plantation begun here in 1635. It is the name-day of the town, rather than its birthday, that we celebrate. The actual settlement was gradually made by successive steps, which may be distinctly traced by existing records. In May, 1635, leave was given by the General Court for the inhabitants of Watertown to remove whither they pleased, provided they continued under the government.<sup>1</sup> On the 3d of September, 1635, the Court ordered a plantation to be settled about two miles above the

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Col. Rec., vol. i. p. 148.

falls of Charles River, on the northeast side, with land on both sides of the river, to be laid out as the Court should appoint thereafter.<sup>1</sup> The language of this order clearly implies that an exploration had already been made. According to Governor Winthrop, the town was begun in September, 1635.<sup>2</sup> The town record of births began in the same year. In the succeeding March the Court appointed commissioners to set out the bounds of the new plantation,<sup>3</sup> who made a report April 13, 1636.<sup>4</sup> There is no existing record of any meeting of the settlers here until Aug. 18, 1636. Finally, on the fifth day of September, 1636, at a meeting of nineteen persons, the petition was signed for the enlargement and confirmation of the grant of the previous year. The Town Covenant had already been drawn up, and had been signed by the petitioners. On the 8th of September, according to the General Court records,<sup>5</sup> or on the 10th of September, according to our town records, the order was passed which gave to the plantation the name of Dedham, with lands not before granted to any town or person, on the easterly and southerly side of the river, and an additional grant of five miles square on the other side of the river. In this brief and informal order are comprised all the corporate powers with which the town was ever specially invested. To borrow the

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Col. Rec., vol. i. p. 159.

<sup>2</sup> Winthrop, vol. i. p. 167.

<sup>3</sup> Mass. Col. Rec., vol. i. p. 169.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 175.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. i. p. 180.

words of an old legal definition, the "invisible and immortal" corporation then created under the name of Dedham has now existed for two hundred and fifty years, without any essential change in its civil constitution. The old town still preserves its corporate identity and its name. In outward conditions great changes have been wrought. Fifteen other towns now occupy territory included within the original grants, beside that portion within the limits of Boston. Political revolutions have changed the Colony to the Province, and the Province to the Commonwealth. The union between church and town, for two hundred years an inherent part of its legal constitution, has been dissolved. Eight generations of men have been born, have lived and died here. But the town government, protected by the just limitations of legislative authority on the one hand, and giving to the people the right to manage and direct its civil administration on the other, has retained its hold of life with a wonderful tenacity. The Dedham of 1636 and of 1886 are one and the same by historic continuity, however they may be separated by time. Let us then first congratulate the old town that two hundred and fifty years have not so diminished the vigor of her corporate life, that she may not look hopefully forward to another century; and may we not appropriately ascribe to her the words of the refrain in Tennyson's familiar song, —

"For men may come, and men may go,  
But I go on forever."

Dedham was not among the more conspicuous towns of the Massachusetts Colony. It never gained the prestige of the college town, nor the importance of the maritime towns. No dramatic event is associated with its name. It never experienced the horrors of an Indian attack, nor was it a battle-field in the opening scenes of the Revolution; but it was one of the first two inland towns, — the other being Concord, — and they were coëval in their settlement.<sup>1</sup> It was a Puritan town of the best type, founded by men of intelligence, foresight, and enterprise, admirably organized, and favored by a wise administration of its affairs from its very beginning. In its full, continuous, and well-preserved records we find clearly exhibited the leading ideas of the Colonists, as well as a rare aptitude for public affairs. In the great crises of colonial history its quotas of men and money were not far behind the leading towns, and there was scarcely a period for two hundred years when Dedham did not furnish some man of more than a local renown for the public service. While therefore its history may be wanting in those thrilling events which arrest the attention of the world, yet it is one which must command the respect and admiration of thoughtful men; and for us who are “native here, and to the manner born,” it has an unceasing interest, even in its repetition. Surely on such a commemorative occasion as this, we cannot forbear

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Col. Rec., vol. i. p. 148.

to review some chapters of that history, and perchance we may find some new grounds to cherish the memory of the men who have lived here before us.

The Colony of Massachusetts Bay had a distinct and independent origin, differing in many respects from that of the Plymouth Colony, although the two are frequently confounded by popular writers, and even by some historians. They were planted by men of different antecedents, holding different relations to the Established Church; and before coming to New England, there was no agreement or connection between them. The Pilgrim was a Separatist; the Puritan was a Non-conformist. Here in New England the two Colonies were frequently united for their common defence, and by their similarity and proximity the people were gradually drawn together; yet there continued to be some essential differences between them until the consolidation under the provincial charter in 1692. The Massachusetts Company, formed in England in 1623, was at first a stock company, organized only for commercial ventures. The Massachusetts coast was then well known to navigators. Before Columbus saw the mainland of America, the Cabots had discovered the continent, and had sailed along the coast from Newfoundland to North Carolina. In 1614 Captain John Smith had explored the coast, and made his well-known map on which the name of New England first appeared, and our river re-

ceived the name of Charles, for Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I. of England. It was an era of commercial activity, and the Massachusetts Company embarked in the fur trade and cod fisheries. They obtained their franchise under the Great Patent of New England, which was granted by the Crown in 1620, just about a month before the "casual landing" of the Pilgrims.<sup>1</sup> In 1624 the Company sent over fifty vessels to engage in the fisheries; but these enterprises proving unprofitable, they were soon abandoned. The father of the Massachusetts Colony was the Rev. John White, of Dorchester, England, a Puritan divine, though a Conformist. It was he who first conceived the idea of planting a colony here for commercial purposes. When these were abandoned, he turned his attention to colonists of another sort. He succeeded in enlisting in his plan the co-operation of certain Puritan Non-conformists, men of character and intelligence, who saw in the project of a new colony the way opened for relief from their distressing position as non-conformists to the liturgy of the Anglican Church. Among the six new patentees, representing the body of one hundred and ten other members of the company, was Captain John Endicott, a stanch Puritan, who was sent over to Salem with a small colony in 1628. This was the first impulse of the new emigration. On the 4th of March, 1629, a new charter was obtained directly from the Crown, which granted

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia Americana*, p. 15.

to the company the territory lying between the Merrimack and three miles north of it, and the Charles and three miles south of it; and what was of greater import to the future colony, besides the territorial grants and some commercial privileges, it also conferred the powers of government. This was the colony charter under which Massachusetts "grew and waxed strong in spirit" for more than sixty years. John Winthrop was chosen governor, and active preparations were immediately begun for colonization in force, with a scrupulous care to the wants and contingencies of a new plantation. It was now decided to remove the seat of government, which had hitherto been in England, and to transfer the charter to New England. Governor Winthrop, accompanied by about twenty members of the company, bearing the charter, arrived on the "Arbella" in Salem harbor, April 11, 1630. It was the "Arbella," and not the "Mayflower," that first brought to Massachusetts Bay a royal charter which gave the guaranties of local self-government, and which may be said to have foreshadowed the future independence of the people of Massachusetts.

These events were the beginning of a colonization which, regarding both the numbers and character of the colonists, is without a parallel in history. In the next fifteen years nearly three hundred ships brought more than twenty-one thousand people to the shores of Massachusetts Bay.<sup>1</sup> These colonists

<sup>1</sup> Johnson's *Wonder-Working Providence* (Poole's ed.), p. 31.



had come with a common, well-defined purpose, under the ample protection of a royal charter; they had brought all their worldly substance, and they had come to stay. These were the men who moulded the civil government and ecclesiastical system which were peculiar to Massachusetts. But they were not only the unconscious builders of a great Commonwealth; they were the progenitors of a race now numbered by millions, scattered through this broad land, whose pronounced religious character and opinions were distinctly impressed upon their descendants to the third generation, and which have not yet wholly ceased to exert their power.<sup>1</sup>

History does not justify the conclusion that all this great company of settlers were impelled by exclusively religious considerations. The same powerful impulse towards colonization was felt in England by Churchman, Romanist, and Quaker, as well as by Pilgrim and Puritan; and not only in England, but in France and Spain, Holland and Sweden. It seems like a prophecy of our composite American civilization that, at not long intervals of time, along the coast from Maine to Florida, settlements were made by Europeans of different tongues and creeds. Doubtless not a few of the passengers in the ships of the Massachusetts Company had in their minds the fur trade and the fisheries. Perhaps more were allured by the dream of proprietorship in broad acres, which has always

<sup>1</sup> See Preface to Dr. Palfrey's History of New England.

made America seem a promised land to the European. But after all that can be justly said of these diversities in the purposes of the Massachusetts colonists, still the historical fact remains unaffected, that the leading idea of the controlling minds of the company, not distinctly avowed in England for prudential reasons, but none the less profoundly entertained and acted upon, was to plant a colony here, where they might worship God in their own way, in the company exclusively of those having the same mind and faith, without let or hindrance from any external civil or ecclesiastical authority, or molestation from any person whatsoever.

The Puritans have been frequently misunderstood, and so they have been the subjects both of indiscriminate eulogy and undeserved censure. They were not religious enthusiasts or political dreamers. They did not seek to divorce the Church from the State. They did not mean to provide here a refuge for men of any creed who might come to them through discontent or fly to them from persecution. Toleration was an unknown word in their time, and they are to be judged by the standards of thought in their own time. At home in England they had belonged to the Established Church, and they never renounced its communion. Before coming here, they had never become a sect under a distinctive name. But they were members of a powerful and growing party in the Anglican Church, which sought to carry out the Reformation according to the principles and

practice of the continental reformers. Almost a hundred and fifty years before Luther, nearly the same doctrines that he taught had been maintained in England by Wycliffe.<sup>1</sup> But the English reformation had progressed slowly, with serious reverses, under different dynasties. The continental reformation had been more rapid and complete. During the persecutions many of the Puritan clergy in the reign of Queen Mary had taken refuge in Germany and Switzerland. In the city of Geneva they had become disciples in the school of John Calvin, and had embraced not only his theological dogmas, but his church polity and simple forms of worship. The powerful influence of Calvin's teachings had been widely felt in England. From the middle of the sixteenth century, the controversy about ceremonies and vestments had proceeded. But when finally the arm of the civil power of the kingdom was stretched forth to enforce conformity to the liturgy under heavy penalties, and the non-conforming clergy were deprived of their livings, their position became distressing and insupportable. With them compromise was impossible; their alternative was either conformity or voluntary expatriation, and they reluctantly chose the latter. They parted with sorrow from the land and homes they loved, so that they might freely enjoy their simple forms of worship beyond the sea.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hallam's Constitutional History, vol. i. p. 57.

<sup>2</sup> The authorities for the view of the character and purposes of the Massachusetts Colonies here presented, are the "Planter's Plea," by Rev. John White, London, 1630, partly reprinted in Young's "Chroni-

Of such men as these were the founders of Dedham. Their English homes were chiefly in the eastern counties of England,—Suffolk, Essex, and Norfolk. Few, if any of them, were known to each other before coming here. They found at Watertown a temporary resting-place, but there was no room for them in that crowded settlement. They were forced to find homes elsewhere. Robert Feake, a relative of Governor Winthrop, and a prominent man at Watertown, was the first signer of the Covenant, and had an allotment of land; but he never removed here. The leader of the pioneers was Edward Alleyn, a man of capacity and education. The authorship of the Town Covenant, to which at different times the signatures of one hundred and twenty-five men were affixed, is to be attributed to him. It is a document which embodies the general purposes of the plantation, which are expressed with dignity, simplicity, and brevity. The names of all the pioneers who actually came here cannot be precisely stated; but among them, besides Mr. Edward Alleyn, were John Dwight, Richard Everard, Abraham Shaw, Samuel Morse, Philemon Dalton, Lambert Genere, John Gay, and John Ellis. All these were signers of the petition, and removed here from

cles of Massachusetts;” Palfrey’s “History of New England,” vol. i. chap. iii.; the learned monograph on the Massachusetts Company, by Samuel F. Haven, in the “Archæologia Americana;” and the chapter on the Puritan Commonwealth in the “Memorial History of Boston,” by Dr. George E. Ellis, where the authorities are collated, and the whole subject is comprehensively and judicially treated.

Watertown. The prayer of the petition to the General Court was that the town be distinguished by the name of Contentment, or otherwise as the Court should please. The Court inserted the name of Dedham. While we have no definite historical evidence why this name was given, we may draw the obvious but satisfactory inference that there were some of the settlers who had lived in Dedham, England. It is supposed that John Dwight, John Page, and John Rogers were of this number.<sup>1</sup> It is not improbable that there were others, as little is now known concerning the places of their nativity. That it was a favorite idea with the Colonists thus to perpetuate the names of their English homes, is well known. A glance at the map of Essex and Suffolk, England, will show how many names were repeated in Essex and Suffolk in the Massachusetts Colony.

Dedham in England is a delightful, but quiet town, in the valley of the Stour, a small river which divides Essex from Suffolk. It lies about fifty-seven miles northeast from London, and some four miles from Manningtree station. It is rarely found on the maps. It lies in the midst of a sheep-grazing country; and, formerly, a source of prosperity to its people was the manufacture of wool on hand-loom. It is a quiet, picturesque place now, where artists go for sketches; and the scene of a recent English magazine story was laid there.<sup>2</sup> In the description there

<sup>1</sup> Worthington's History of Dedham, p. 31.

<sup>2</sup> The Deadleigh Sweep, Cornhill Magazine, 1886.

given, one may easily find points of resemblance between our Dedham and its English prototype.

It consists of one broad street of old houses, some plaster and timber with acute gables toward the street, and of brick mansions erected between the reigns of Queen Anne and George IV.; of a stone church of the fifteenth century, with a stately tower, and encrusted with mural tablets; of an assembly-room with a Doric portico, and of a red brick grammar-school with moulded brick pediments, cornices, and picturesque windows, and a cricket-ground behind, shadowed by giant elms.

Although the signers of the petition may be regarded as the nominal founders of the town, yet out of the nineteen, only eight were long identified with it, or had any permanent influence in its organization. The rest either removed or died soon after the beginning of the town. But in 1637 the company received new and important accessions to its principal men, who came here directly from England. Among these were John Allin, Eleazer Lusher, Michael Metcalf, Anthony Fisher, Daniel Fisher, and Francis Chickering. These, with those already here and others who followed soon after, are to be regarded as the efficient founders of the town.

We find, in the records, surprising evidence of the energy and foresight of these men in organizing the settlement. They went about the work of forming a civil society with the certainty of instinct. It must be remembered that as yet there were no

general laws of the Colony to regulate their interests or to direct them in their affairs. The first code of colony laws, known as the Body of Liberties, was not passed until 1641. But they had brought with them a strong endowment of that common-sense which has been said to be the source of the common law of England. They had been trained to a knowledge of the great underlying principles of civil society. They had only to transplant here in the wilderness such laws and customs as would serve their purpose, but these were derived from a civilization which had been the growth of centuries. They knew the difference between organic law and municipal regulations. The Town Covenant was their constitution. It declares that none were to be received unless they were probably of one heart with them. It provides for a settlement of difference by reference to two or three others. It imposes the duty of every man owning land to pay his share of taxes, ratably with other men. It announces the purposes of the settlement to be "a loving and comfortable society." This was subscribed by every townsman as he was admitted, during many years. But they also passed many municipal regulations in the beginning. Great care was taken that no unfit person should be admitted. One ordinance declared that every man should give information of what he knew concerning any man in town, before he should be admitted "into the society of such as seek peace and ensue it." No propri-

etor could sell his lands without the leave of the company. The purpose of these ordinances was to keep off "the contrary-minded." In the division of lands, they granted each married man a home lot of twelve acres, and each unmarried man eight acres. These were all surveyed, and an instrument of title given, which was duly recorded. They reserved a common tillage-field in which every man's share was defined. They laid out herd-walks or common pastures where all cattle might feed. They provided for the maintenance of fences and the keeping of swine, horses, and cattle. As early as 1637, a long ordinance was passed for the establishment of highways. All rivers and ponds, except those enclosed by lands of one owner, were to be kept from being appropriated, and for the use of the inhabitants for "fishing or otherwise as occasion may require." It will be observed, in these ordinances, how the common weal was made paramount to every private interest. In 1644 they granted lands for a school fund, and they raised £20 to pay the school-master. They set apart the training-field, and organized the train-band, which had a weekly exercise in the beginning. At first they were employed the greater portion of their time in public business, and after three years they delegated to seven men all powers except granting lands and admitting townsmen. These were the first Selectmen of Dedham. In all these ways they showed how much more they thought of building up a com-



fortable society than of building comfortable cottages for themselves. No sooner had they reared their rude cabins in the forest than their thoughts were turned to converting it into a settlement where all might enjoy the blessings of civilized life.

The subject uppermost in their thoughts was the gathering of a church. At first they worshipped under one of the large trees east of Dwight's Brook, or Little River.<sup>1</sup> They began to build a meeting-house in 1638, but it was not finished until 1646. It was placed on this spot, after some difference of opinion, as the record runs, "in loving satisfaction to some neighbors on the East side of Little River." Mr. Allin has left a minute and graphic history of the formation of the church, now preserved on the church records, written by his own hand. To the founders it was a great and solemn work, to be undertaken with the utmost care and deliberation. They spent a whole winter in conferences, that they might become acquainted with "each other's gifts and graces." It was first proposed that the members of the Watertown church of their own number should lay the foundation, but this was declined. Then they began the delicate and trying duty of determining who among themselves "were meet for the work." After a day of fasting and prayer, "every one laying aside all ambitious desires of being taken into the work, and overmuch bashfulness in refusing the same, they should willingly submit themselves to

<sup>1</sup> Lamson's Historical Discourses, 1838, p. 7.

the judgment of the whole company to be taken or left as ordered by the rule of the Gospel," six were agreed upon by common consent. But they could not so easily agree upon the others. There was no shrinking in their scrutiny. They were no respecters of persons. It was "judgment laid to the line and righteousness to the plummet." Edward Alleyn himself had given some offence, and he was required to wait for further testimonies from friends in England. Anthony Fisher had a false confidence. Joseph Kingsbury was too much addicted to the world, and Thomas Morse was dark and unsatisfying in his religious experience, though his life was innocent. Finally, Edward Alleyn and John Hunting were accepted; and on the 8th of November, 1638, having obtained the consent of the Governor and Magistrates and sent a letter to the elders of the neighboring churches, and after spending the previous day in fasting and prayer, the first church of Dedham and the fourteenth in the Colony, in the words of Mr. Allin, "was made a spiritual house." Another severe trial awaited them in the choice of a pastor. Mr. Thomas Carter, a signer of the Covenant, was thought of; but he was called to Woburn. Mr. John Phillips, an eminent divine, formerly rector at Wrentham, England, was much desired; but he declined. The choice finally fell on Mr. John Allin as pastor and John Hunting as ruling elder. At the ordination, although the elders of the other churches were present, they took

no further part than to extend the right hand of fellowship. The laying on of hands was done by members of the church, and in this service they followed the usage of other churches in the Colony. These proceedings had an intense and absorbing interest for these earnest-minded men, and give us a good insight into their characters. Beneath their quaint forms of speech, it is easy to see how tenaciously they held to their rule of discipline and faith, and how rigidly they applied to themselves the same rule that they did to others, in determining fitness for church-membership.

The planters in their petition had desired that the name of Contentment should be given to the town, but to them this did not signify the contentment of repose or inaction; on the contrary, they exhibited a remarkable energy in forwarding public enterprises. In their need of a corn-mill, they sought for an eligible site where they might build a dam for water-power. Some quick eye discovered that East Brook, which ran to the Neponset, would give the needed fall, but not sufficient water. The sources of this brook were about three fourths of a mile from Charles River, and lower than the bed of the river. The problem then was to unite the waters of the Charles and of East Brook. No sooner was the plan conceived than it was determined to execute it. On the twenty-fifth day of March, 1639, the town ordered that the channel be dug at the common charge, "that it may form a suitable creek unto

a water-mill, that it shall be found fitting to set a mill upon, in the opinion of a workman to be employed for that purpose." This required the cutting of a channel twenty feet wide for three fourths of a mile, and a further widening of the channel of East Brook. Who were employed in this work cannot be discovered, but the canal was dug and a dam and mill built upon it as early as 1640. It was undertaken without any aid or authority from the General Court; and so far as is known, it was their own right arms that accomplished the work. This was an enterprise of no small proportions, and its benefits to the town have been far reaching. For two centuries it furnished power for a saw-mill and a grist-mill. Since the beginning of the present century there have been five mill-dams on the stream, and extensive cotton and woollen mills, with other manufactories. To-day it is the source of the greatest industrial enterprise of the town, and is the best existing monument of the energy and foresight of the settlers.

Another work showing their practical forethought was undertaken in 1652. At the beginning of the settlement, what is now called "Dedham Island" was a neck of land containing about twelve hundred acres, around which Charles River flowed with a slight fall in its course, a distance of nearly five miles in an irregular horse-shoe bend. There was a distance of only two thirds of a mile across the meadows at the heel of this bend, and here the

upper and lower channels of the river are distinctly visible. On this neck was a herd-walk, and perhaps some houses. The damage to the meadows by the waters remaining upon them was felt by the settlers to be serious, as it has been by every succeeding generation of riparian owners. Accordingly they conceived and executed the plan of cutting a creek or ditch through "Broad Meadows," thus uniting the upper and lower channels of the river. The purpose of this creek was to permit the overflow of water in times of freshets through this artificial channel, instead of allowing it to accumulate along its natural and circuitous course below. This channel still exists; and though much obstructed, if it were cleared there is no reason to doubt it would fulfil the purpose of its projectors.

But the enterprise of the Dedham settlers was not confined to the immediate neighborhood of the village. Almost at the beginning their attention had been drawn to the beautiful and extensive meadows at Bogastow, afterwards Medfield. Edward Alleyn had a grant of three hundred and fifty acres there before his death in 1642. In 1651 Medfield was made a new town, with Mr. Wheelock, of the Dedham church, as its church teacher. It was therefore an offshoot from the Dedham settlement. They had also found the fine ponds and lands at Wollomonopoag, afterwards Wrentham. In 1671 it was voted that a plantation be set up there. They had some negotiations with Philip of

Mount Hope as to his claims of title; but the settlement went forward, and hither went their sons and sons-in-law to find their new homes. The affairs of the new plantation for a time were directed by Dedham men, and so it may be regarded as peculiarly a child of Dedham; but in 1673 it was made a separate town under the name of Wrentham, given, no doubt, by reason of Mr. Allin's connection with Wrentham, England.

These new settlements had been planted within the territory of the original grants to the Dedham proprietors. They planted another settlement, a hundred miles away in the wilderness. In 1651 the General Court, with the assent of the Dedham proprietors, had granted two thousand acres of land for the Indian town at Natick. A dispute afterwards arose respecting the boundaries of this grant, which was the subject of a lawsuit that resulted substantially in favor of Natick. To compensate Dedham, the Court granted to the proprietors eight thousand acres of unlocated lands, wherever in the colony they might select them. Accordingly they sent out messengers to make explorations. The "chestnut country," near Lancaster, was reported to have good land, but hard to cultivate, and there were not enough meadows. John Fairbanks, an enterprising explorer, informed the Selectmen of some good land twelve miles from Hadley; and he, with Lieutenant Daniel Fisher, was sent out to find it, and they returned with the report of a good land.

This was Pocumtuck, the present town of Deerfield. Whoever has seen the lovely valley where old Deerfield lies, with the broad interval and the graceful sweep of the river around it, must applaud with enthusiasm the choice of the Dedham explorers. In 1670 the proprietors assembled at Dedham, laid out the town in lots, and selected a site for the meeting-house. All the proprietors were Dedham men, excepting Captain Pynchon, of Springfield, and four others. In 1672 further orders were passed for organizing the settlement. But the remoteness of Pocumtuck rendered its becoming a separate town inevitable. The shares of the proprietors were finally sold, and Deerfield became a separate town in 1682.

Edward Johnson, in his history entitled "Wonder Working Providence of Zion's Saviour," writing about 1651, thus describes the Dedham settlement:—

"Dedham is an inland town about ten miles from Boston, well watered with many pleasant streams, abounding with garden fruits, fitly to supply the market of the most populous town, whose coyne and commodities allure the inhabitants of this town to make many a long walk. They consist of about a hundred families, generally given to husbandry, and through the blessing of God are much increased, ready to swarm and settle on the building of another town more to the inland. They gathered into a church at their first settling; for, indeed, as this was their chief errand, so it was the first thing they ordinarily minded to pitch their tabernacles near the Lord's tent. . . . They

have continued in much love and unity from their first foundation, hitherto translating the close clouded woods into goodly cornfields, and adding much comfort to the lonesome travellers in their solitary journey to Canectico, by eyeing the habitations of God's people in their way, ready to administer refreshing to the weary."

Such was the work accomplished by the emigrant settlers during a period of a quarter of a century. When we add to these achievements the hand-to-hand contest with the forest and the soil, the care of the herds upon which their subsistence depended, the monthly assembly for military training and the weekly lecture, the settlement of boundary lines and of Indian claims, we are able to form some estimate of the variety and magnitude of their labors. Lord Bacon says that in "the true marshalling of the degrees of honor, the first place is to be given to the founders of States and Commonwealths." Let then the highest tribute of this day be paid to the men who planted here in the wilderness the best civilization of their time, illumined by a simple and genuine religious faith.

We naturally desire to know something of the personal history and character of these men. First in order of precedence should be named Edward Alleyn, the leader of the pioneers. Of his English history we know nothing. He was the first Town Clerk and the first Deputy to the General Court; and he died suddenly while attending the Court in 1642. He apparently was a layman, and his brief



career was sufficient to stamp his name indelibly upon our history.

John Dwight was an active citizen, and was a Selectman for sixteen years. He brought with him from England his son Timothy, a child of five years, who, when he reached manhood, became more prominent than his father. He was the Town Clerk for ten years, and a Selectman for twenty-four years. He died in 1718, and was the last survivor of the first settlers. The name of Dwight has long since disappeared in Dedham. But Timothy Dwight was the progenitor of a numerous family, some of whom intermarried with Dedham families, while others bearing the name made their homes in the Connecticut valley, whose descendants have been eminent in many professions and callings. Each succeeding generation down to the present one has added a new lustre to the name of Timothy Dwight.<sup>1</sup>

The Rev. John Allin, the pastor, was born in 1596, but the place of his nativity has not yet been ascertained. He was educated at Caius College, Cambridge, where he took his Master's degree in 1619. He was instituted rector at the Church of St. Mary at the Quay, in Ipswich, in 1620. He was married at Wrentham, Oct. 10, 1622, where his eldest son was born. He was probably deprived of

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Timothy Dwight, the distinguished President of Yale College, 1795-1817, and his grandson Dr. Timothy Dwight, chosen to the same office in 1886, are descendants of Timothy Dwight, of Dedham.

his living in 1637.<sup>1</sup> While there is doubt concerning some facts of his English history, there can be no doubt concerning his character and influence here. As a divine he was eminent for his learning, ability, and graces of character. With Shepard, he was a champion of the Puritan churches, and with Eliot he was a co-laborer in the conversion of the Indians. He also bore a prominent part in directing the civil affairs and public enterprises of the town. He was possessed of a large landed estate, and his second marriage with the widow of Governor Thomas Dudley added to his worldly substance. Joseph Dudley, who afterwards was high in office but obnoxious to the people, was educated in the family of Mr. Allin.

Major Eleazer Lusher was without doubt the ablest and most efficient man among the settlers. He was a founder of the church, the Town Clerk for twenty-three years, and a Selectman for twenty-nine years. He was Captain of the train-band, and Major of the Suffolk Regiment. He was one of the original founders of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. He was a Deputy from the town to the General Court, and afterwards one of the Assistants of the Colony for eleven years. He was also often employed in the affairs of the Colony by special appointment, and in 1671 was the chair-

<sup>1</sup> Some new facts of interest concerning the English history of Rev. John Allin have been brought to light by Professor William F. Allen, of Madison, Wisconsin. These will be found in the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register for January, 1887.

man of a committee to collate the laws of the Colony. Edward Johnson describes him "as a man of the right stamp, of pure mettle, a gracious, humble, heavenly-minded man."<sup>1</sup>

Captain Daniel Fisher was admitted to the church in 1639. He was a Selectman for thirty-two years, a Deputy to the General Court, and Speaker of the House of Deputies for three years; afterwards he was one of the Assistants, in which office he died in 1683. He was a man of high patriotic spirit, and is said to have been learned in the law.<sup>2</sup> Toward the close of the long struggle for the preservation of the Colonial Charter, Daniel Fisher became prominent. He was one of the four whom Randolph accused of high crimes and misdemeanors.<sup>3</sup> His children were imbued with the same indomitable spirit. It was his son Daniel of whom the familiar story has been told of leading Sir Edmund Andros through the streets of Boston, April 19, 1689. This dramatic incident rests upon a tradition in his family for authority, but it also corresponds with the historic account of the events of that day, and may be accepted as authentic.<sup>4</sup> He was the great-grandfather of Fisher Ames. Lydia Fisher, the sister of the second Daniel, when

<sup>1</sup> *Wonder Working Providence* (Poole's ed.), p. 110.

<sup>2</sup> *Dexter's Centennial Sermon*, p. 26, note.

<sup>3</sup> *Palfrey's History of New England*, vol. iii. p. 365.

<sup>4</sup> This fact was first stated in *Worthington's History*, 1827, p. 51. It rests upon the authority of a family tradition, communicated to the author by Hon. Ebenezer Fisher, a great-grandson of the Daniel Fisher referred to. The statement has since been often quoted, and its truth has never been questioned.

a young woman of nineteen, went to Hadley to become the confidential attendant of Goffe and Whalley, the Regicides, who were then concealed in the house of Rev. Mr. Russell. This was in 1671; and she was probably selected for this somewhat perilous mission through the intervention of her brother Daniel, who had occasion to pass through Hadley on his way to Deerfield. The place where the Regicides were then concealed was known to but few persons in the whole Colony, and Lydia Fisher deserves to be remembered as a woman who kept not only a simple secret, but a great colonial secret, on which the lives of the Regicides themselves and perhaps other lives depended.<sup>1</sup>

There were other men worthy of special mention: Michael Metcalf, at one time the schoolmaster; Lieutenant Joshua Fisher, the keeper of the ordinary, and town surveyor; and Francis Chickering, Deputy to the General Court. But this was a

<sup>1</sup> Lydia Fisher was born in Dedham, July 14, 1652; was married to Nathaniel Chickering Dec. 3, 1674, and died in Needham, July 17, 1737. The fact of her attendance upon the Regicides at Hadley in 1671, for about a year, is attested by the family papers. It has been asserted that her father, Captain Daniel Fisher, concealed the Regicides near his house in Dedham for a time, and that Lydia here ministered to them and rode behind one of them on a pillion to Hadley. The Regicides left Boston Feb. 26, 1661, and arrived in New Haven March 7. They remained in concealment in that vicinity until they went to Hadley Oct. 13, 1664. It is very probable that on their nine days' journey to New Haven they rested at Dedham, but they did not tarry long. Lydia at that time was less than nine years of age, and Goffe and Whalley did not go from Dedham to Hadley, but from New Haven, and more than three years afterwards. — PALFREY'S *History of New England*, vol. ii. chap. xiii.

society in which no distinction was recognized, save that founded upon service rendered to the Colony, the town, or the church. The elders, the deacons, and the officers of the train-band were the only title-bearers. The pastor himself was only designated as Mr. Allin, though the prefix implied some social distinction. In the village of 1664 we find all the names of the well-known Dedham families now represented among us: Avery, Bullard, Baker, Bacon, Colburn, Eaton, Everett, Ellis, Fales, Fairbanks, Farrington, Fuller, Guild, Gay, Kingsbury, Morse, Onion, Richards, Wright, Wilson, Whiting, — all had houses here in 1664.

But the time came when the leaders of the first generation were to rest from their labors. In 1675 all save Captain Daniel Fisher, Timothy Dwight, and Richard Everard had passed away. Another generation had succeeded, and the rule of peaceful life was about to be broken.

In 1673 the Selectmen were summoned by the General Court to prepare the town for defence against the Indians, who were then incited to hostilities by Philip of Mount Hope. The train-band was called out for frequent exercise. The great gun, called a "drake," given to the town by the General Court in 1650, was mounted. A barrel of gunpowder and ammunition were procured. A garrison was maintained and a watch set. Many fled to Boston for safety. The Wrentham settlers packed their goods and brought their families to Dedham.

All Indians in the town were ordered to depart. Dedham had some natural advantages for purposes of defence, but these precautions saved the settlement from attack. Philip had met the Dedham men in the negotiation of treaties, and perhaps saw good reason to avoid them. But Dedham soldiers did good service in the war. Near its close a party of Dedham and Medfield men captured Pomham, a Narragansett sachem, with fifty followers, in Dedham woods, which was considered an achievement of material importance to the final issue. Nor did those nearly connected with Dedham wholly escape the bloody horrors of that war. Besides the burning of Medfield and the deserted houses at Wrentham, in the fearful massacre at Bloody Brook, Robert Hinsdale, one of the founders of the Dedham church who had removed to Hadley, perished with his three sons while moving their crops from Deerfield.

The close of Philip's War marked the beginning of great changes. There had long existed a desire to extend the area of the settlement to the west and south. In 1682 a vote was passed that no one should move more than two miles from the meeting-house. This was an attempt to repress the disposition to leave the village. It was not until fifty years afterwards that new parishes were formed. But when the fear of the Indians had been quieted, the young men could no longer be restrained from leaving the settlement. Gradually

the first rude houses which constituted the first compact village gave way, and in their places here and there the plain was dotted with more substantial farm-houses. All were farmers, and there was no village settlement again for more than a century.<sup>1</sup>

Great political changes also were now occurring in the Colony. The charter brought over by Winthrop, for the preservation of which Daniel Fisher had striven, was dissolved by a judgment in the English Court of Chancery. The colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts were united in the Province under a royal Governor. The autonomy of the Puritans, so strictly maintained under the first Charter, received its first serious shock in the guaranties to Protestants of every name given by the Provincial Charter. Dedham was now entering upon a long period of great depression. The men who had succeeded to the management of affairs were by no means the equals of the founders in education or capacity for public affairs. In spite of the care the fathers had taken to educate their children, the wilderness had proved to be a rough training-school. Their youth had been spent in clearing and subduing the soil, in planting orchards, and in building roads and fences over a wide extent of territory. There was an indifference to the means of education. The town was indicted in 1674, and again in 1691, for its neglect to support a

<sup>1</sup> Worthington's History, p. 15.

school. Mr. Dexter, in his Century Sermon of 1738, laments the "disesteem of learning too evident in a prevailing temper to be wholly without a grammar-school, and the negligence of the parents to send their children when they have one." He makes the significant assertion: "I think it is beyond dispute a rare thing to find among us men of common character that can use a pen as many, many of our fathers could."<sup>1</sup> But this low state of education was perhaps due to circumstances which could not be controlled. The dispersion of the compact settlement caused the maintenance and attendance of a school to be attended with serious difficulties. Before 1730 there was but one church and but one schoolmaster, who was employed but a few weeks in one place. There were many hardships in the general condition of the people. They were all descendants of the first settlers. There were no newcomers, and a strong jealousy existed towards them, — a natural outcome of the policy of the founders. They saw little of other people, and there were but few marriages except among themselves. The road to Boston was rough and circuitous; over it they carried the produce of their farms in panniers. They also carried to Boston oak-bark, hoop poles, oak and pine timber for building purposes, oak staves, ship timber, charcoal and wood for fuel to some extent.<sup>2</sup> In this way they gained a subsist-

<sup>1</sup> Dexter's Century Sermon (1738).

<sup>2</sup> Worthington's History, p. 39.



ence for themselves and their families. As a natural consequence from such a condition of society, they had warm controversies among themselves upon town and parish matters. But it must also be said that this hard school of self-denial and sacrifice did not efface from the character of this generation their strong religious faith and their firm attachment to the church and town. If their views of life were narrowed by circumstances, they were still jealous of their civil rights, and kept themselves informed in public affairs. They had no Lusher, whose memory as a wise counsellor was long cherished, to direct their affairs; yet they had good men in Samuel Guild, John Metcalf, and Joseph Wight, who filled long terms of office as Selectmen.

Between 1671, when Mr. Allin died, and 1723, when Mr. Dexter came, there had been two ministers of the Dedham church, — Adams and Belcher. A new meeting-house had been built in 1673, and repaired in 1702. The South Parish was incorporated in 1730, and the West Parish in 1736. In 1748 a fourth parish was incorporated under the name of Springfield, which is the present town of Dover. All persons were taxed for parochial purposes, and all were required to attend public worship under penalties. Under the Statute of 1727-28, however, persons attending divine service according to the Church of England might have their taxes paid to a minister of that church, if such service was

performed within five miles of their residence. In 1734 the ministerial taxes of six persons in Dedham were remitted because they carried on the worship of God in the way of the Established Church of England. In 1731 Dr. Timothy Cutler, rector of Christ's Church, Boston, began the service of the English Church, and preached in a private house in the westerly part of the town. He sometimes had congregations of fifty persons, and there were eight or nine communicants. From this time until the Revolution, these services were held at irregular intervals in different places in the town; and finally a church was built in Dedham village, and opened for service in 1761. Thus it will be seen, that, in about a century from the founding of the town, the English liturgy, the great rock of offence to the fathers, and so carefully excluded in the time of the Colony, was publicly used in Dedham under the protection of law, and accepted by some of the descendants of the settlers in the third generation.

In the various military expeditions during the French wars, Dedham men were called to bear a part. In the West Indies, at Ticonderoga, Fort Edward, Fort William Henry, at the memorable siege of Louisburg, and at the Bay of Fundy they performed military service, and many never returned.<sup>1</sup> Among the names of soldiers who served in these companies will be found those of old Ded-

<sup>1</sup> Haven's Centennial Address, Appendix, pp. 66, 67.

ham families. It must be remembered that at this period the military spirit was maintained in full vigor, and that all able-bodied men were trained in the manual of arms. In 1757 it has been estimated that one third of all the effective men of the Province were in the field in some form or other.<sup>1</sup> In these French wars the men of Massachusetts became accustomed to actual service in arduous campaigns, and so acquired a knowledge of the art of war which well prepared them for the great conflict of the Revolution, twenty years later.

While the eighteenth century prior to the Revolution was a period of depression, hardship, and sacrifice in Dedham, and, excepting the military expeditions of the French wars, was not fruitful of events, yet it was during this period that two of the most notable men in its history came here to make their residence, and at a time when they were much needed. These were Dr. Nathaniel Ames and Samuel Dexter,—men of pronounced character, and in different ways destined to exert a strong influence in succeeding times.

Dr. Ames came from Bridgewater, when a young man, in 1732. He inherited from his father a love of the science of astronomy as it had then been developed, and in 1726, when less than sixteen years of age, had published his first almanac, on the titlepage of which he styled himself a "Student in Physic and Astronomy." He continued to publish

<sup>1</sup> Minot's History, vol. ii. p. 37.

these almanacs for forty years, and his son Nathaniel, for ten years more. Dr. Ames was a man of an acute and vigorous mind, and his almanacs abound in quaint verses and scientific essays.<sup>1</sup> His first wife was Mary, the daughter of Joshua Fisher; but she died, leaving an infant son, Fisher, who also died in less than a year after his mother. It was from this infant son that Dr. Ames inherited his landed estate in Dedham. He then married Deborah, the daughter of Jeremiah Fisher, who was the mother of five children. At the decease of Dr. Ames, in 1764, his two eldest sons, Nathaniel and Seth, had just been graduated at Harvard College, and Fisher, the youngest, was only six years of age. The younger children were left to the care of their mother, a woman of great energy and force of character. Fisher Ames was fitted for college under the instructions of Mr. Haven, the minister of the church, and was graduated in 1774, at the age of sixteen. Such was the beginning of a family and a name in Dedham which afterwards became the most conspicuous and illustrious of any in its annals.

Samuel Dexter was a son of the fourth minister of the Dedham church. He had been bred to business, and having acquired a fortune as a merchant in Boston, he returned to his native town to live in November, 1762. He soon built a fine mansion on land adjoining the parsonage, which

<sup>1</sup> An elaborate notice of these almanacs may be found in Tyler's "History of American Literature," vol. ii. pp. 122-130.

is still standing, in admirable preservation; and though it has been much improved, it has not been radically changed in form or arrangement. Mr. Dexter immediately assumed a leading place in the local affairs of Dedham. He gave liberally for the support of schools, and for the new meeting-house erected about the time of his coming. He was usually the moderator of town-meetings just previous to the Revolution, and the resolutions then adopted were drawn by his hand. He was for several years a Deputy to the General Court, and was several times negatived as a Councillor by the royal Governor. In the beginning of the Revolution he was for five years in the Provincial Congress, and a member of the Supreme Executive Council of State, which assisted and supported the military operations in the vicinity of Boston.

The decade which preceded the first conflict of arms in the Revolution was one of intense excitement, deep anxiety, and popular indignation. These found expression in town-meetings and through committees of correspondence, and finally in preparations for actual war. In all this period the men of Dedham, true to the traditions of their fathers, were thoroughly aroused. They had suffered much from provincial taxes levied on account of the French wars, in which they had fought the battles of England; but they were ready to make greater sacrifices in resisting those parliamentary measures especially contrived to reduce the free-spirited people

of Massachusetts to the condition of mere subjects to the Crown. The town raised its voice against the passage of the Stamp Act, and joined in the short-lived joy over its repeal, of which event the Sons of Liberty have left a permanent memorial to this day.<sup>1</sup> It voted to discourage the use of foreign superfluities and to encourage domestic manufactures. It abjured the use of tea, and resolved to unite with other towns for the redress of grievances. In 1774 it resolved not to supply the British troops with any articles but provisions. In September of the same year the delegates from the Suffolk towns assembled here, and organized the convention which made the first declaration of armed resistance to Great Britain. The people opened a subscription for the distressed poor in Boston, "cruelly suffering in the common cause of America." But they did not entirely rely upon resolutions and declarations. In March, 1775, they raised a company of sixty minute men, to be drilled three days and a half in each week, to be ready to march on the shortest notice in case of an alarm, and to serve nine months. In all these stirring movements the town was acting in co-operation with the other country towns in the common cause. Such was the preparation made by the men of Dedham for the conflict which they clearly foresaw was about to open. Knowing as we do the spirit that animated them, their complete readiness for any emergency, and informed by subsequent

<sup>1</sup> "The Pillar of Liberty."

events, we may feel assured that if, on the morning of April 19, 1775, a detachment of British grenadiers had marched up the High Street of Dedham with a hostile purpose, the minute men of Dedham would have been found on yonder Common, to make their stand for the common cause of home-rule and self-government. But, as has been aptly said, the "lot of glory fell to Lexington."

A little after nine o'clock in the morning, there came a horseman down the Needham road to bring the Lexington alarm. The minute men were ready for the expected summons, and knew just what to do. There are traditions still kept of the plough being left in the furrow and the cart upon the highway, and the drivers mounting their horses and galloping for their muskets and accoutrements. They did not wait for more than a platoon to assemble before they started. Captain Joseph Guild, of the minute men, gagged some croaker who had said that the alarm was false. As the day wore on, the militia companies mustered under their respective captains. The first company of the first parish, sixty-seven officers and men, was commanded by Captain Aaron Fuller. A smaller company of seventeen men marched under Lieutenant George Gould. The company of the South Parish, under Captain William Bullard, had sixty officers and men; and the company of the West Parish, thirty-one officers and men, was under Captain William Ellis. The Fourth Parish company, under Captain Ebenezer Battle, marched

with sixty-seven officers and men. In all, including the minute men and the militia, three hundred men under arms must have marched from Dedham on that historic day. Nor were these all. The gray-haired veterans of the French wars, whose blood was stirred anew by the sights and sounds of war, resolved to follow their sons to the battle. Assembled on the Common before this meeting-house, they met Rev. Mr. Gordon, of Roxbury, who had just come to Dedham; and he, from the steps of the eastern porch, offered a prayer, and then they also marched, under the lead of Hezekiah Fuller and Nathaniel Sumner. Well may we believe, as we are told, that the town was left "almost literally without a male inhabitant below the age of seventy and above that of sixteen."<sup>1</sup> Where our soldiers met the enemy is not precisely known, but probably in Cambridge. We only know that among the casualties of the day it is recorded that Elias Haven was killed, and Israel Everett wounded, and that these men belonged to different Dedham companies. While the glory of the eventful morning justly belongs to Lexington and Concord, yet after noon, when the British began their retreat, the battle was maintained by men from all the surrounding towns; and among these, the men of Dedham were at the front. Dr. Nathaniel Ames made this significant entry in his diary for that day, which seems to describe it with historic accu-

<sup>1</sup> Haven's Centennial Address, p. 46.



racy: "Grand battle from Concord to Charlestown. I went and dressed the wounded."

This quiet hamlet now became the scene of warlike operations. Provincial cannon were brought here, and Ebenezer Brackett was chosen to guard them. Committees were appointed to procure guns and ammunition, and to establish a night watch. The old gun of King Philip's War was ordered to be swung. The town voted to raise one hundred and twenty men to be ready to march on an alarm. Samuel Dexter announced that he would give his services in attending the Provincial Congress. Troops from Rhode Island passed through. Our people heard the booming of the guns at Bunker's Hill and saw the smoke of Charlestown, but our soldiers had no part in the battle. They, however, formed a part of the force that invested Boston the succeeding winter. After the evacuation, when the army was moving to New York, General Washington spent a night here, and was entertained by Mr. Dexter.

At the session of the General Court in November, 1775, Dedham was made the shire town of Suffolk County. The reason of this act, as recited in its preamble, was that Boston was "a garrison of the ministerial army, and had become the receptacle of the enemies of America." The books and papers of the Registry of Deeds were removed here; and although the act was repealed in 1776, yet at the same time a resolve directed that these should be

kept in Dedham during the unsettled state of public affairs, until the further order of the General Court.

In May, 1776, the town held a meeting to know the minds of the people about coming into a state of independency. The subject was fully discussed and considered at several adjournments of the meeting; and finally, May 27, 1776, the inhabitants unanimously voted, "that if the Honorable Congress should declare the Colonies independent of Great Britain, they would solemnly engage to support it in that measure with their lives and fortunes."

The whole story of how the town redeemed this pledge cannot be told here. The exact number of men raised for the service has never been stated, but the published list must fall short of the real number. Bounties were paid, committees of correspondence and safety were maintained, and a committee for the care of soldiers' families in distress was appointed. The demands for horses and beef were supplied. The fluctuation of the currency gave to everything a factitious price. The burden of taxation became very heavy as time went on. It has been estimated that the annual expenses of the war, met by taxation, assessed upon the inhabitants by the town and parishes, were eight thousand dollars, federal currency.<sup>1</sup> When we consider that all this expense was maintained by a town of less than two thousand inhabitants, all

<sup>1</sup> Worthington's History, p. 69.

farmers, having little or no means beyond what their farms yielded, we may gain some idea of the trials and sacrifices of the people during the eight long years of the Revolutionary War. Their endurance did not fail, though the limit was nearly reached. Their indomitable spirit bore them up, and they maintained the common cause with great unanimity. They had the leadership of able men like Samuel Dexter in the beginning, who aided them by donations of money as well as by his personal influence. Mr. Haven, the minister, was an active leader; and Dr. Nathaniel Ames, the younger, was an ardent supporter of the popular cause. Fisher Ames was but seventeen years old in 1775, but he did some military service during the war. The town, therefore, made good its pledge, solemnly given at the beginning, to support independency.

In the brief but serious insurrection led by Daniel Shays, which followed the Revolution, and which threatened the supremacy of law in Massachusetts, Dedham furnished a quota of forty-five men, showing that her people, though suffering from impoverishing taxes, were ready to suppress lawlessness under the guise of relief from oppressive laws.

Between the close of the Revolution and 1790, no marked changes occurred in the affairs of the town; but during the last decade of the eighteenth century, there began an era of improve

ments in Dedham village. It was about to shake off its rural aspect and to take on a more imposing appearance. Since the first little compact village of the settlers had disappeared, a century before, here and there, scattered over the plain, had stood the farm-houses. The meeting-house, the school-house, and the tavern made the only centre of Dedham life. The mansion of Dr. Sprague, purchased of Mr. Dexter, the parsonage of Mr. Haven, and the house of Dr. Nathaniel Ames the younger, were the only conspicuous houses in the village. Besides the minister, the two physicians, and perhaps the schoolmaster, all were farmers. The change was a gradual one, and proceeded from a variety of causes.

In 1793 the County of Norfolk was incorporated, formed by a division of Suffolk County. This project had long been agitated among the farmers of the country towns, and the subject of many resolutions. Dedham, in 1786, had declared, as a reason for the division of the county, "that if the courts of justice should be held in some country town within the county, we expect (at least for a while) that the wheels of justice would move on without the clogs and embarrassments of a numerous train of lawyers. The scenes of gayety and amusements which are now prevalent in Boston, we expect, would so allure them that we should be rid of their perplexing officiousness." Dedham, chiefly on account of its central position,

was made the shire town of the new county, and this at once gave it a new importance. Despite the public deprecation of the "order of lawyers," two natives of Dedham, Samuel Haven and Fisher Ames, both lawyers, almost immediately opened their law offices here, and began to build their fine mansions. In 1796 Captain Edward Dowse, a retired merchant, and a liberal-spirited and charitable gentleman, afterwards a member of Congress, came here, and soon erected another mansion on High Street. The spacious and imposing residence, first known as the Lovell house, on the corner of Court and Highland Streets, was built soon after. All these houses are now standing, much enlarged and enriched by their subsequent owners. In 1795 about twenty acres of land in the heart of the village, which had been devised to the Episcopal Church by Samuel Colburn in 1756, was divided and leased in village lots, and houses began to be built on them. Not many years after, the land of the First Church on the west side of Court Street was also leased. A new interest began to be manifested in public schools, and a new brick school-house was finished in 1800. A wooden court-house, fronting on the Meeting-house Common, was finished in 1795. The courts before had been held in the meeting-house, and they continued to be held there afterwards on special occasions. On the fourth day of April, 1792, the stage-coach began to make its regular

trips of two hours from Dedham to Boston, for five days in the week.<sup>1</sup> In 1797 the old Episcopal Church, opened in 1761, was removed and reconstructed. The town began to increase in population, and mechanics and tradesmen to come from elsewhere.

In 1804 the turnpike from Boston to Providence was opened, which gave to Dedham the advantage of a direct and well-graded road to Boston. In 1797 water was brought to the village by an aqueduct. A still more significant mark of the new order of things was the establishment of the Norfolk Cotton Factory in 1807. Its corporators were citizens of Dedham, and its water-power was furnished by the canal of the early settlers. This factory was a source of much pride to our citizens; and though a dozen years later it met with financial disaster, it attracted to Dedham men of enterprise and skill, who subsequently were among its most reliable citizens. In this way began the village of Dedham as we see it to-day; and with the exception of a very few houses, none are now standing which were built earlier than 1795.

All these things were the outward signs of social changes. In 1792 Fisher Ames wrote to Thomas Dwight: "Dedham will never become more than a village, but it is growing up to be a smart one." And in the same letter he added: "Is there not a cold hard spot in the heart which is indifferent

<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Ames's Diary.

to the *natale solum*? The growth of the place I live in concerns my profit and my pleasure, and it seems to me there is reason, if not philosophy, in my taking an interest in that event." These were noble words, and in the few years of life that remained for him he nobly endeavored to carry them into action.

Having studied law with William Tudor in Boston, Fisher Ames was admitted to the bar in 1781. He had a small practice in Dedham for a few years, but employed his leisure in writing a series of articles for the "Independent Chronicle" upon questions then agitating the public mind growing out of Shays' Rebellion. The vigor of thought and style in these essays attracted attention, and they may be regarded as the beginning of his public career. He was a delegate from Dedham in the Constitutional Convention of 1788, where he made his maiden speech in favor of biennial elections. He was elected to the Legislature from Dedham in the same year. In 1789 he took his seat in Congress, and served eight years, during Washington's administration. It is beyond the scope of this address to speak of his public life further than to say that in a period of a national history remarkable for its statesmen and political writers, no one produced a more profound impression than Fisher Ames. But as a private citizen living here on his native soil and identified with the interests of this town, something should be said to-day. After his marriage

and a brief residence in Boston, while he was still a member of Congress, Mr. Ames returned to Dedham to make his home upon the patrimonial estate. The old house where he was born was still standing, and it was not taken down until after his mother's death in 1817. He built a law office on the corner of what is now the Court-House Yard, on High and Court streets, which he occupied until his death in 1808. He immediately entered upon local enterprises with great earnestness. He took pride and satisfaction in his farm. He makes frequent allusions in his letters to his large stock of cattle, to the productiveness of his cows, to his breed of sheep, to his desire to get the best seeds, and to his belief that his farm is approaching the period when it would be profitable; adding, "if he did not think it would be, it would not be an amusement, it would be a mere piece of ostentation on any other prospect, an expensive folly, a toilsome disappointment." But Mr. Ames was specially active in plans for the improvement of the appearance of the village. He engaged in the fierce debates of a Dedham town-meeting to urge that the roads be repaired by contract, instead of by the old plan of working out the highway taxes, and that the district school should be kept for a longer time. He was interested in the drainage of the Charles River meadows; in the establishment of a manufactory; in the founding of a library and an academy; in the building of a new town-house, and the safe-keeping of the records; in a new



meeting-house, and in making a public square in the centre of the village. He was the first president of the turnpike corporation, and personally supervised the building of the road. He was hospitable, and gave parties, and strove to cultivate social relations with his neighbors. During all this time Mr. Ames's health was extremely precarious, and he was occupied more or less in the trial of causes. In all these ways, animated by the highest and most disinterested motives, he strove to elevate and improve the condition of affairs around him. He was doubtless far in advance of his time, and many of his plans were little heeded. He encountered a strong opposition from the sturdy farmers in the parishes who did not favor any project for the improvement of the village. Beyond the remaining elms on High Street, there are no existing memorials of the enlightened public spirit of Fisher Ames. His efforts, however, are not to be estimated by the degree of success which attended them, but rather by the spirit that inspired them; and they should always meet with a grateful recognition whenever our local history is told.

The period beginning with the present century and ending with the War of 1812 was characterized by an intense political feeling. Probably never was partisan controversy so bitter, or carried so far into the relations of social life. It was then that the name of Federalist became so offensive to the popular party as to be handed down in history with unpleasant associations, while the Republicans were

denounced as "Jacobins" by their political adversaries. These political animosities had full play in Dedham. Dedham supported the administrations of Jefferson and Madison, and the War of 1812. Soldiers for the army were recruited and drilled here, and the Dedham Light Infantry performed service at South Boston. In August, 1812, a convention of five hundred delegates assembled here to express their approbation of the war. Fisher Ames was a Federalist. Doubtless much of the opposition to his plans for the improvement of the village was due to politics. Between him and his eldest brother, Dr. Nathaniel Ames, who was a Republican, there were many sharp political conflicts, as there are apt to be between strong men of the same blood.

The administration of James Monroe was characterized as the "era of good feeling," in contradistinction to the intense bitterness of political strife during the administrations of Jefferson and Madison. This was illustrated in Dedham upon the occasion of the visit of President Monroe. On the first day of July, 1817, there was a great military parade here to receive him. The first division of the Massachusetts militia was ordered out, including the cavalry and artillery as well as infantry, and mustered at Dedham. The President was escorted by a detachment of cavalry from the southerly line of the county in Wrentham. Upon his arrival at Dedham, near sunset, he reviewed the troops on the

Great Common. He then retired to the hospitable mansion of Mr. Dowse, where he was entertained for the night. In the morning he walked through throngs of people to Polley's Tavern, where he received the salutations of the citizens, and "shook hands until near exhausted with the tedious ceremony."<sup>1</sup> General Crane finally requested the multitude to pay their respects by simply bowing and passing on. Then, escorted by the cavalry and carriages, the President went on his journey to Boston. Such was the manner of receiving a Republican President in Dedham in 1817.

The most memorable event in the history of the town was the division of the church, which occurred in 1818. In these days when theological dogmas have so relaxed their hold even upon religious men, it is difficult to put ourselves into a position to understand the full meaning of this event to the men and women of the First Parish nearly seventy years ago. The church and the parish then included nearly all the people of the village, and all were required by law to attend public worship. The church was supported by general taxation, and it was bound by inseparable ties to the civil administration of the town. To the church-members the church was an object of unspeakable solicitude, and the subject of constant prayers. It was the ark of the covenant placed here by the fathers. The time has now come when we may speak of the division

<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Ames's Diary.

as an important fact of history, though there was a time when our people alluded to it with bated breath, and it was not deemed to be a proper subject for public discussion. It was the result of no common local quarrel over a question of transient importance. Briefly stated, the issue was made upon the right of a territorial parish to elect a religious teacher without the concurrence of the church connected with it. The usage of the Puritan churches had always required such a concurrence. But in the Constitutional Convention of 1780, without much serious discussion, there had been inserted in the Bill of Rights a provision which gave to towns and parishes the exclusive right to choose their public teacher. The First Parish of Dedham in 1818 elected a "public teacher of morality and religion," but in this election a majority of the church refused to concur. Upon the ordination of the teacher-elect, a majority of the church with the deacons, and a minority of the parish, withdrew and formed a separate religious body. Then the right to the property and records of the church became the subject of a suit at law, and the court held that under the provision of the Bill of Rights, made in 1780, the parish might elect a teacher with or without the consent of the church, and without regard to ecclesiastical usage; that a church could have no legal existence apart from the parish, and that those members of the church who remained with the First Parish

of Dedham were entitled to the property of the church. Such were the legal questions involved in this celebrated case. But the real underlying causes of the controversy must be sought for in the theological history of that time. It must be ascribed to the powerful reaction from the dogmas of Calvinism, which may be traced back for many years before, and which culminated in 1816 with a great religious upheaval that rent asunder the parish churches in half the towns of eastern Massachusetts. The decision of the Dedham case was the most far-reaching in its results perhaps of any decision of our courts; for under it the church property in a majority of those towns passed into the exclusive control of the parishes, while the church members who adhered to the Orthodox Puritan faith were relegated to the position of dissenters from the established parish churches. This was an ecclesiastical revolution which the union of churches and territorial parishes could not withstand; and in 1834 the parochial system of the Puritans, which had been so carefully framed and steadily maintained for two hundred years, by an amendment to the Bill of Rights, was dissolved forever.

It is a privilege to be able to add a peaceful sequel to this story of strife and division here in Dedham. Since 1819, in separate churches and congregations and confessing different rules of faith, the descendants and successors of the Puritan found-

ers have worshipped here. Though widely separated by differences of administration, they have worshipped so near each other that sometimes the passer-by might hear the songs of praise borne on the same harmonies going up together from both congregations. The venerated pastors, who were both ordained in the hour of great tribulation, for forty years afterwards led the devotions of their hearers. They were both representative men of their diverse schools of theology, but they both bore themselves with a dignity becoming their sacred office, and both labored for peace. If there were heart-burnings and some bitterness in the beginning, these found no encouragement from the pulpits. There was a calm on the surface of the troubled waters, though there might have been whirlpools and eddies below; and long before the faithful pastors were borne to their final rest, through no diplomacy but the silent force of their example, a treaty of amity had been concluded which has been well kept and, as we trust, is never to be broken.

In 1830 the population of the town was upwards of three thousand. There had been a slow but steady advance in population and prosperity. The formation of a bank, an insurance company, and an institution for savings, were further evidence of its growth. The manufacture of woollen goods at the mills had been put upon a firm basis by the capital and capacity of Benjamin Bussey and his efficient agent, Thomas Barrows. Two cotton-mills had

been built, and they were operated by Frederick A. Taft and Ezra W. Taft, skilful and experienced manufacturers. In the South Parish, George Winslow, Willard Everett, Lyman Smith, and Joseph Day had begun those enterprises which afterwards transformed that farming neighborhood into a prosperous village. In Dedham village there was a silk-factory and shops for making stage-coaches. The Citizens' Stage Company, owning three hundred horses, with coaches and equipments, had its headquarters here. This line ran from Boston to Providence, leaving Boston at five o'clock in the morning, and connecting at Providence with the New York steamer at half-past eleven. Subsequently the time was reduced one hour. It has been stated that express riders once carried a message of President Jackson from Providence to Boston in two hours and forty-five minutes. Sometimes a procession of twelve coaches filled with passengers, heralded by the horn, would draw up here for breakfast or a relay of horses. At the sessions of the courts the county lawyers brought their satchels with their papers, and tarried at the taverns until their cases were disposed of. Sometimes a leader of the Suffolk bar would appear, to electrify the jury and the spectators. In the winter, balls and sleighing-parties made the two taverns centres of life and gayety. In the summer, families from Boston found Dedham a pleasant place of sojourn. Mrs. Kemble and Mrs. Hawthorne in their published diaries give us some

glimpses of Dedham life at this period. Books and pamphlets were printed here. There was a young men's lyceum, which produced original plays. Each political party had a county newspaper. Of the dreaded order of lawyers there were not less than five in practice. Theron Metcalf, who came in 1809, delivered law lectures to students in 1828. Horace Mann began his brief professional career in 1826. In the same year Lafayette was received here at nearly midnight by a concourse of people who had waited all day to see him, amid the ringing of bells, the firing of a salute, and an illumination of the houses. In 1833 President Jackson with his cabinet rode through long lines of men, who received him with uncovered heads, as he made his journey towards Boston. Such was Dedham village in 1834. The prediction made by Fisher Ames forty years before had been fulfilled. It had grown to be "a smart village."

Fifty years ago to-day the town observed its two hundredth anniversary. It was entered into with spirit, and was a memorable occasion. The town had then attained the height of its local importance, and the arrangements made were quite imposing. The Governor of the Commonwealth, Edward Everett, and his brother, Alexander H. Everett, both descendants of Richard Everard, were present. The felicitous speech of the Governor added much to the impressiveness of the occasion. A sentiment to the memory of Rev. Samuel Dexter was



spoken to by Franklin Dexter, his great-grandson, an eminent lawyer. There were also present a few surviving soldiers of the Revolution; and among these the venerable Ebenezer Fisher, then in his eighty-sixth year, who had filled high political offices, and who was the great-grandson of Daniel Fisher, — the same who had the affair with Sir Edmund Andros in 1689. The orator of the day, Mr. Haven, was a son of Dedham, and the lineal descendant of two ministers of the Dedham church, — Dexter and Haven. He was then a critical student of Massachusetts history, and afterwards during a long life he held a position which enabled him to attain a wide reputation as an historical scholar. His centennial address was a learned, concise, and accurate survey of our history. Thus was the memory of Dedham men of nearly every generation honored here by their distinguished descendants fifty years ago.

Two notable church anniversaries also occurred in the bi-centennial year of the town. By a somewhat remarkable coincidence, on the tenth day of January the Third Parish completed the first century of its corporate existence, and on the twenty-third day of June the church of the Second Parish had been formed for a century.<sup>1</sup> Both of these occasions were appropriately observed by historical discourses from the pastors, which were printed.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> No allowance is made here for the difference between old and new style.

<sup>2</sup> Centennial Discourse, by Rev. John White, Jan. 17, 1836. Centennial Discourse, by Rev. Calvin Durfee, June 26, 1836.

They were prepared with great care and fidelity, and were complete and succinct histories of the churches in those parishes. The two hundredth anniversary of the church of the First Parish came two years later, Nov. 18, 1838, making allowance for difference of style. For this occasion Rev. Dr. Lamson prepared and delivered three historical discourses, which embodied a full and comprehensive history of the church down to his own time. These were afterwards printed with copious notes, in which were collected many historical facts from original sources by the patient investigation of the learned pastor. These sermons have an especial value, since they cover a period of two hundred years, when the history of the town was so largely merged in the history of the church. Rev. Dr. Burgess also delivered a concise and accurate historical discourse upon the history of the church, which he afterwards printed in a unique volume, containing a sermon of every minister of the church to his own time, collected with much difficulty, that they might serve as a memorial of the event for the generation living at the end of the third century. Certainly on this anniversary we must all recognize the pious reverence for the memory of the fathers, which prompted all the pastors of the Puritan churches of the town thus to perpetuate its ecclesiastical history in discourses which together form the best memorials we have of the close of the second century.

The opening of the railroad in 1834 was the prelude to another period of change in Dedham village. The people made contributions of lands and money to build the branch to Readville. They thought it would be like a turnpike over which any line of coaches might run upon the payment of tolls. They were pleased with its novelty, but failed to comprehend its great possibilities. For a time a two-horse compartment car was drawn to Boston. Then a connection was made with the Providence trains, but it was some time before a locomotive drew a train of cars from Dedham to Boston. The stage-coaches for a time competed with the railroad, and as late as 1841 an omnibus was driven regularly from Dedham to Boston. But the day for stage-coaches was soon over, and with them went out the busy shops and the old-time tavern life. Nothing ever took their places. But the railroad doubtless led to the removal from Boston to Dedham of some valued citizens. In 1839 the Dowse estate came into the hands of Edmund Quincy, known to the world as an accomplished author, and to us who knew him here as an ideal gentleman. The Riverdale estate about the same time was purchased by Thomas Motley, Sr., and here his son the historian dwelt for a time. The fine houses on East Street were built soon after, and occupied by gentlemen who became honored citizens of the town. While the local industries had declined, the town still maintained its position

as a centre for the interests of the county. The great political procession of July 4, 1840, estimated to include seventy-five hundred persons, was a notable event among the boys of that day. In the days of the anti-slavery agitation, all its leaders whose names have become historical were accustomed to attend their annual county conventions here, and there were some excited sessions in the old Town House. In 1849 the Norfolk Agricultural Society, organized and directed by its efficient president, Marshall P. Wilder, held its first exhibition, at which Daniel Webster and a rare company of distinguished men made addresses. The exhibitions of this society for many years were great events, and are among the pleasantest memories of thirty years ago.

In the autumn of 1848, during the presidential campaign, there was a political meeting which deserves to be commemorated. It was held by the friends of General Taylor in the old hall now standing on Court Street. It was an ordinary political meeting, but held in the afternoon and during the session of the court. The hall was but half filled. The speaker was a Western member of Congress, who had come to Boston to make campaign speeches. Probably few of his audience had ever heard his name. He spoke but a half-hour, as he was obliged to take the train. He was a tall, gaunt man, whose free manner and careless disposition of attire bespoke the Western stump-speaker. His

speech was enlivened by a peculiar humor, and it went directly home to the understanding and appreciation of his audience. Probably all recollection of the speech and the speaker soon faded from the memory of many of his hearers. But there was one of them<sup>1</sup> who in after years loved to recall the fact that the plain man whom he heard that day was a man who will be remembered while American liberty shall last. It was Abraham Lincoln of Illinois.

In the spring of 1861 Dedham was enjoying a good degree of prosperity, partly from local industries and partly from being the residence of business men from Boston. No event had occurred during the preceding decade to disturb its harmony, and the outlook ahead disclosed no reason for apprehension. There had been no military company here since 1842. Few of our young men had been drilled in the manual of arms, or knew anything of military tactics. They were looking forward to a peaceful career in their respective callings. Even the *quasi*-military organizations of the presidential campaign in the preceding autumn had not inspired in them any thought or desire of becoming real soldiers. For a number of years the military

<sup>1</sup> Hon. George H. Monroe, of Roxbury, a native of Dedham and a resident here in 1848. He escorted Mr. Lincoln to Dedham, and gave an interesting narrative of his visit and speech in the "Boston Herald," April 22, 1885. Mr. Lincoln was entertained during his brief stay in the mansion of Freeman Fisher, now the residence of John R. Bullard.

spirit had to some extent been under the ban of public sentiment in Massachusetts. Many good people indulged the belief that wars had ceased to be necessary for the arbitrament of difficulties. The coming shadows of a possible conflict after the presidential election did not arouse them from the dream of peace. Even when the clouds began to thicken, and the sky to grow dark, and the rumbling of the distant thunder to be heard, they did not realize that the tempest was at hand. It was only when the bolt of war fell that they were startled into action; but then they sprang to their feet, ready to do battle for Union and Liberty.

It was my great privilege eighteen years ago this month, on a public occasion,<sup>1</sup> while yet the memories of the war were fresh, though the materials of authentic history were meagre, to give an historical account of what Dedham and Dedham men did in the Civil War. It was such a story as might be told in many a Massachusetts town, but it had a peculiar pathos and interest for us. Year by year, ever since, the comrades of the Grand Army have called us to refresh our memories over the grave of the soldier. We need not linger over them to-day. The events of those years were too deeply impressed upon all who in any way participated in them to be soon forgotten.

But it would be an unpardonable omission not to say of old Dedham, on her two hundred and

<sup>1</sup> Dedication of Memorial Hall, Sept. 29, 1868.

fiftieth anniversary, that in the Civil War she was thoroughly, nobly true to her traditions. In unanimity of action, without regard to political affiliations; in the alacrity and steadfastness of her support to the National Government in every call for men; in the tenderness and interest with which she followed her soldiers to the field and cared for their families at home; in the readiness of her citizens to make any required contributions of money,—and, above all, in the precious sacrifice of her sons on a score of battle-fields, she paid the full tribute of patriotism, “in good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over.” She was as faithful and true in 1861 to 1865, as in 1675 and 1775. The centuries had not abated her spirit, though they had changed her habits and opinions. When the day of trial came, she was the same town still.

We have already reached the boundary-line between the domain of history and the memory of the present generation. Perhaps the greatest social revolution in the history of the American people began with the close of the Civil War. But no man living can now foresee its issue, or rightly estimate the true proportions of its events. As the soldier amidst the din and smoke of battle knows little or nothing of the grand movements in which he is bearing a part, so we cannot understand the real meaning of what transpires in our own time. The accomplished historical scholar

who stood in this place fifty years ago, closed his retrospect of the history of Dedham with the War of the Revolution, and so we will close ours with the War of the Rebellion.

Surely we cannot leave the contemplation of this honorable and inspiring history without being in some measure touched with a sense that we who have succeeded to the heritage have a weight of obligation resting upon us. We have seen to-day, in the light of authentic history, how, in the two hundred and fifty years since civilization and Christianity were first planted here, one period has been evolved from another; and though great changes have been wrought in habits, opinions, and systems, yet, after all, as a community, we bear the family likeness. The most striking impression one gets from a close study of the history of any old Massachusetts town is of the wonderful stability of its people. If we sometimes complacently reflect, in the pride of our material prosperity, that the early days were days of small things, we have seen that they really were days of great achievement. If we regard ourselves as more tolerant in our forms of religious faith, let us never forget that the Puritan fathers believed what they professed, and practised what they believed. If we think ourselves emancipated from the restraints of their narrow and provincial views of life, still we must acknowledge that they knew,



better than we, how to lay strong and deep the foundations of civil society. But let us forbear to draw parallels to our own advantage. Let us rather prove our fidelity to the sacred trust committed to our hands, by striving to see how far we can excel the fathers in public spirit, in devotion to the common interests of society, and, if need be, in heroic self-sacrifice in the day of trial. As we step forward to-morrow into another half-century of our history, we can find no better formula to embody our best aspirations than those simple words, written for all time, that Edward Alleyn put into the Town Covenant two hundred and fifty years ago, and to which the townsmen of the first century subscribed.

Let us "become freely subject to all such orders and constitutions as shall be necessarily had or made, now or at any time hereafter, from this day forward, as well for loving and comfortable society in our said town, as also for the prosperous and thriving condition of our said fellowship, especially respecting the fear of God, in which we desire to begin and continue whatever we shall by His loving favor take in hand."

## VII.

## FORTY-FOURTH PSALM.

(BAY PSALM BOOK, 1650.)

TUNE—"St. Martin's."

*(The audience are requested to rise and join in the singing.)*

WE, with our ears have heard, O God,  
Our fathers have us told,  
What works Thou wroughtest in their days  
Ev'n in ye days of old.

How Thy hand drave ye heathen out,  
Displanted them Thou hast ;  
How Thou ye people did'st afflict,  
And out them Thou did'st cast.

For by their sword they did not get  
The land's possession,  
Nor was it their own arm that did  
Work their salvation.

But Thy right hand, Thine arm also,  
Thy countenance of light ;  
Because that of Thine own good will  
Thou did'st in them delight.



## VIII.

## BENEDICTION.

BY REV. SETH C. BEACH.

REV. ARTHUR M. BACKUS, to whom this part had been assigned, was  
detained by illness.

## THE DINNER.



## THE DINNER.

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AT the conclusion of the exercises in the church the procession re-formed and marched to the large tent on Richards Field, which was filled with eleven hundred ladies and gentlemen. Upon the platform were seated the presiding officer, Hon. FREDERICK D. ELY, Gov. GEORGE D. ROBINSON, Mayor O'BRIEN, President DWIGHT, Hon. JOHN D. LONG, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, Dr. WILLIAM EVERETT, Lieut.-Gov. AMES, Hon. GEORGE WHITE, Hon. A. W. BEARD, Hon. R. R. BISHOP, Ex-Governor FAIRBANKS, of Vermont, Hon. J. Q. A. BRACKETT, Hon. GEORGE W. WIGGIN, and many others.

After the company was seated, the President rose and said:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—At the dinner given in honor of the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of this town in 1836, Rev. JOHN WHITE, then a settled minister at West Dedham, invoked the divine blessing. I now invite you to join with his successor, Rev. GEORGE W. COOKE, in invoking the divine blessing on this occasion.

## THE INVOCATION.

OUR FATHER'S GOD, we invoke Thy blessing on this occasion. Bless us as Thou hast blest our fathers, with high thoughts and pure motives and noble purposes. Bless, our Father, in the future, this town, as Thou dost bless it on this occasion. We thank Thee for these blessings Thou hast given us; help us to be worthy of those Thou wilt give to us in the future. *Amen.*

After an hour spent at dinner, the President addressed the audience as follows:—

## ADDRESS OF HON. FREDERICK D. ELY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, — By the courtesy of the Committee who have this celebration in charge, it becomes my delightful privilege to speak the word of welcome on this occasion. To the Honorable Representative of the National Administration; to His Excellency the Governor, and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth; to His Honor the Mayor of the city of Boston; to the President of the Massachusetts Historical Society; to the distinguished principals and teachers of institutions of learning; to the respected officers and citizens of this county and of neighboring cities and towns; and especially and supremely to the sons and daughters of Dedham who to-day return to the old homestead from their chosen abodes in other parts of the country, — I tender, in the name of our town, a cordial and hearty greeting. We appreciate the honor of your presence; we shall treasure the words of wisdom and good cheer that you will speak; we trust that you will carry away with you favorable impressions of our ancient but vigorous municipality;

and when this day shall be numbered with the days that are past, may its recollections inspire us all with a more deep and lasting appreciation of the character and struggles of those plain but thoughtful men who two hundred and fifty years ago cut a pathway through the forest, and first planted the seeds of civil government on the spot where we now stand.

Frequent as celebrations similar in character to the present have been in recent years, they have never failed to awaken a lively interest in the minds and hearts of the people. Their novelty has indeed disappeared, but their significance remains undiminished and unobscured. The lapse of time consigns the ordinary transactions of human life to the realm of oblivion; it brings into clear perspective the great achievements of valor, of endurance, of masterly common-sense. The former are buried out of sight by the ever-busy processes of Nature; the latter stand out more and more in insulated grandeur, and become memorial columns in the majestic progress of human society. To them the people look back as plentiful sources of present prosperity and happiness, and at stated periods imprint them on the memory of succeeding generations by fitting and appropriate ceremonies.

Perhaps few events in the public life of the American people are more worthy of commemoration than the founding of a New England municipality. In our complex system of government the town is the unit which lies at the foundation of the entire fabric. In theory indeed it is the creature of the State; practically it is the safeguard and support of the sovereignty to which it owes allegiance. United by proximity of residence, associated in the school, the church, and the town-meeting, the inhabitants of a town readily and effectively meet any emergency to which the State may be exposed. In peace, these pure democracies furnish to the Commonwealth its

revenues; and when war comes, its revenues and fighting men. It is the achievements of men leagued by the ties of town associations and town government which have enkindled the pride of our beloved Commonwealth, and crowned her name with glory and honor. It was the men of Lexington who with heroic and fervid patriotism stood on the village green, and received the fire of the British soldiery. It was the minute men of Concord and Lincoln and Acton who

“ Fired the shot heard round the world.”

It was the men of Dedham who swiftly responded to the cry of alarm, “in such numbers,” says Bancroft, “that scarce one male between sixteen and seventy was left at home.”

This admirable frame of local administration is only one of many conspicuous monuments of the wisdom and prudence of the colonists of New England. Scarcely was

“ A clearing cut  
From the walled shadows round it shut,”

when the meeting-house and the school-house arose at the side of the humble dwelling of the settler. From these rude, unpretentious buildings piety and education went forth hand in hand to Christianize and civilize the land. Beneath their benign influence an active, brave, resolute, intelligent, and moral population, imbued with independence and enterprise, sprang up, subdued the wilderness, wrung bountiful harvests from the stubborn soil, and laid deep and sure the foundations of a State whose abundant and abounding blessings it is our happy privilege to enjoy.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, on the banks of yonder river bordered by meadows of waving grasses and fragrant flowers, the founders of Dedham planted these beneficent institutions. Their deeds of valor, of wisdom,



of prudence, of enterprise, of devotion to liberty have this day been recounted by more eloquent lips than mine. Around you on every hand behold their monuments. They breathe in the rippled waters of the Charles, flowing through strange channels to unaccustomed labors; they live, not in obelisk or pyramid, but in vast cathedrals of industry, whose busy shuttles, singing songs of praise and rejoicing as they fly, bear plenty and comfort and contentment to hundreds of peaceful homes; they greet the eye in time-worn memorials of a sagacious, discriminative, but fearless patriotism; "they stand immutable and immortal in the social, moral, and intellectual condition of their descendants; they exist in the spirit which their precepts instilled and their example implanted."

THE PRESIDENT: Fellow-citizens, although the honorable gentleman who was to respond to the first toast (the Hon. JOHN E. FITZGERALD) is absent, I will read it to you:—

*The President of the United States!* Vested with the executive power of a nation of sixty millions of people, occupying a domain continental in extent, who can measure his responsibilities or weigh in a balance the burden of cares and anxieties inseparable from his supreme office? May he be blessed with wisdom, with strength, with courage, and with abundant success!

Having paid our respects to the President of the United States, it is our next duty, as well as the next impulse of our hearts, to pay our respects to the Governor of the Commonwealth, both officially and personally. I will read a toast to which I will invite him to respond:—

*"The Commonwealth of Massachusetts!* The protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of her people have been conserved and promoted by a long line of wise, devoted, and far-seeing supreme executive magistrates."

Ladies and gentlemen, I have the very high honor of introducing to you the Hon. GEORGE D. ROBINSON, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR ROBINSON.

Mr. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, — When, after many years of wandering, the traveller turns his steps homeward and traces back the familiar paths to the old homestead that rests on the hills that were so well known to him in his boyhood, he stops by the wayside as he nears the dear old place, and drinks again at the spring that delighted his youth and slaked his thirst, and finds there the water sweeter and brighter and fresher than all the land elsewhere brings forth; and beneath the grateful shade of the old trees that he loved so well he sits, and drops the tear and breathes the sigh for the past. All through him run the warmth of recollection and the deepness of inspiration that thrill him again with the scenes and delights of his early life. Coming back here to-day, travelling down over a quarter of a thousand years, we sit again at the origin of this settlement, at the beginning of its power; and though we drew not the natural breath at the beginning of its existence, we shall find, and do find, in its history and growth abundance of thought and recollection that strengthen and encourage and cheer.

All over this land that is now occupied by your busy people, where on every hand, not in name as was hoped

for as of yore, but in reality "contentment" is found; here where these streets are now formed from the once untrodden plain, by the river that yet as then flows on to the sea,—we find these associations attaching us to the past that is abundantly dear. And so too, when all Nature smiles bountifully, when never was it brighter before than it is to-day, when we have an abundant harvest ready to enrich the husbandman, and over the head of it all Nature's resplendent glories to be enjoyed freely by every person,—in the midst of this wealth of experience we come back here to revive the past, and to renew our devotion to the associations of the great men and women that made that past and rendered their future and our present possible. Taking it altogether, it seems as if the poet wrote of this time when he said:—

"It is a bright September morn,  
The earth is beautiful, as if new born;  
There is that nameless splendor everywhere,  
That wild exhilaration in the air,  
That makes the passers in the busy street  
Congratulate each other as they meet."

How true it is of what has been seen by every one to-day in the associations of this happy occasion. And yet the change strikes us with wonderful power. Then, the sounds of the forest,—it might be the threatening of the hostile savage; now, the abundant harmonies of peace, and, instead of the war-whoop, the cheerful strains of hundreds of children standing before the sanctuary of God, and chanting the national anthem of free America. And all this comes to us not through any dim tradition; fortunately the youth of the present time find their early history written out of well authenticated records, if not perpetuated even in the testimony of the living.

The admirable address we listened to this morning, abounding in fact and rich in suggestion, comes down to

us with the testimony of very truth, stripped of all doubt and uncertainty, and presented before us as the fact of life; and we never tire in this Commonwealth of this old, old story of the beginning of our towns. How gratifying, indeed, it must have been to the eloquent speaker this morning to see with what care and attention and respectful hearing every utterance of his was listened to! It seemed as if this story had never before been told, as if he alone had it within his power to acquaint us with this marvellous fact; and yet it has been written and restated and rehearsed time after time, not only here but everywhere, in all the old towns and settlements of Massachusetts and New England. It is the same tale over again, more wonderful than ever before each time in its repetition; and as the years come and go, and men pass on and off the stage, they love to look with increasing interest and yearning to the times that were wrought out in so much tribulation and trial.

There is no grander sight than a collection of our own people. Massachusetts presents no better spectacle than the concourse of her free-thinking, broad-minded, clean-handed, and pure-hearted men, women, and children in our various communities; and this assemblage could nowhere else be so possible as it is in our own beloved New England. That is the secret of her power. In that, so long as it be maintained, shall we find that element of strength which shall enable us not only to enjoy but sacredly to perpetuate the great institutions of the past. Look at any such gathering of our people, consider the power that is bound up in one town of our Commonwealth, and you will find the secret that underlies the strength of the American republic. The little drop among millions that fall in the shower sheds only a sparkle, but in the sunlight it carries within its bosom all the richness of color; its companions, as they fall, may combine with it to make

a greater expanse of beauty, but each one in itself is entire and glorious. And so the little town in New England, clad in all her panoply of power, exemplifies in the greatest and grandest and completest degree the true democracy of America. Bring these little towns together one after another; make up a State, and out of the States a nation, so that you will illumine the whole heavens for the enlightenment of the world, for the glorification of men and the uplifting of those in other lands that are oppressed, — and you have but the testimony of what began in the little settlement in one town.

It is undoubtedly true, in the language of the sentiment that the President has read to you to-day, that Massachusetts has *in times past* had good executive magistrates in her highest positions. There is no doubt of that in the minds of all her people, and no one more than the present speaker delights to accord that high praise and commendation. And why is it? You will point in your recollection to some who seem to have excelled all the rest; you will find here and there one that in your judgment outstrips those that preceded or those that followed him. But look over the illustrious group, and tell me why it was that those men so signalized their control of power. Great, were they? Yes. Patriots indeed? Yes. And loyal and true men? Most certainly. But that is not all. No; you might take that greatness alone and plant it on some distant island of the sea, and it would there go unsought and unused. No, rather it would be unknown if it were there. But here in this old State of Massachusetts the citizen is always greater than the Governor; the power is back of the man who for a short time only holds the great elements that guard the interests of the State. For a time he exercises that control which is put in his hands for the safety of all; and sometimes it may be he is delighted

with his prominence, and thinks he sways the destiny of the State. But it is only a brief assumption on his part; correction soon follows; and if he reads history and keeps up with current events, in the very near future he finds that while he thought when in office there could be nobody else as great and grand as he, others came after that seemed to him almost to outstrip him,—and it is because the people push to the front the man that is wanted and demanded, the one required for the emergency. Possibly men may have thought for a little while, before 1860, that the age of great governors was gone by; that if any time of great peril came upon us, no man would be able to take the burdens of the hour. But John A. Andrew was equal to any time; it was a crisis that placed him upon the platform of power and authority, and it was a crisis to which he was abundantly equal. So long as the men that we trust with our affairs in public are more devoted to liberty and to the safety of the people than they are to themselves and their own elevation or continuance in power, we shall have men in our first places that are to be trusted and in the future to be honored. So long as they, like the men of the past, are found sober and firm in Christian virtue and truth,—in what makes for the substantial security of home and church and town and State,—so long it will lie in the mouth of no one to say that Massachusetts has not honored the true men in her high places; and I put it to you, ladies and gentlemen, that if the time shall ever come that Massachusetts shall be ashamed of her rulers, it will be because her people fail to do their own duty. It should not be forgotten to-day that when this town was granted its act of incorporation, Sir Harry Vane was Governor of Massachusetts, being then but twenty-five years of age, less than a year in America, scholarly, bright, accomplished, Christian, earnest, liberty-loving, uncompromising, full of blood and

spirit, and devoted to the freedom of all men. What he attempted to establish at that time was not secured in success, as we know, because defeat before the people followed; and though he returned early to his home country and there later in life met his death in sacrifice to the principle that he had lived for, yet we to-day, rejoicing in our entire liberty, allowing to all men the right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, recognizing any and all sects of faith for the free adoption of every man and woman, — we cannot but turn back with gratitude and pride to the record of Harry Vane in 1636, when he stood up even before the majority in Massachusetts, and declared that he would live for the rights of the people to civil and religious liberty.

Having the right to demand the best service, shall the people seek it? Do the people of the town of Dedham insist upon it always? Are they sometimes lax in the performance of their duties as citizens? If some foreign potentate should issue a proclamation declaring that on and after the first day of October next no man in the town of Dedham should have the right to cast his vote or to attend the town-meeting, every man would be as valiant and as ready for the sacrifice as the grand old heroes of the past were; every man would stand at the corner of the streets with his musket, ready to meet the power that sought to put in force that infamous proclamation. And yet there are men in the town of Dedham who slothfully lay down their privileges every year and let them go into the dust, as if they were not worth the sacrifices of the past or the enjoyment of the present. You heard about the grand old men this forenoon, — how they sacrificed, how they stood; how they marched, not only in Dedham, but over into Lexington, in order to meet the enemy. Do you read in the annals of Dedham in 1886 of all the men shouldering the ballot when the time comes, and marching

to that strife? Are there any in the old records who are recorded as having been so busy in the cornfield that they could not go home to attend to the affairs of the town or the church? Perchance there may be men that go to Boston and find occupation in counting-rooms; possibly lawyers that have clients in court; possibly ministers who have the idea that the whole matter of politics is too vile and foul for them to touch, — possibly there are many people who think that somehow or other the assemblage of the freemen of America in our own time, clad in the rights of citizenship by the power that secures us all, that that union and concourse is not honorable and good for them. I tell you such people as that would not have had enough in them to have made a decent Puritan. That kind of people stayed across the water, and never came here; or, if they did, they took the first ship back. Why, Dedham has fifteen hundred voters upon her voting-list; fifteen hundred men that have the right to vote, — and I say more, that had the *duty* to vote, that have not any right to be excused except for insuperable reasons; and only seven hundred and sixty-one out of that whole number voted at the last election. Shame on us to come up here to-day and sit down with unblushing faces, and listen to the glory of the past and the greatness of our ancestors and the sacrifices they made and of the stuff that was in them, — and we weak, puny, insignificant, out of comparison! Perhaps this is the way that the Commonwealth should not talk; perhaps the Governor ought to rise here and deliver some highflown oration. But this is the only time, at a two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, that I can possibly have the opportunity to free my mind and soul.

Oh, no! some men after they have heard a splendid exaltation of the idea of the Massachusetts town-meeting, what a grand theatre it is for the operations of freemen, say, “Oh, yes,” as they walk along the street and button up



their coats for fear of contamination,—“ Oh, yes, that would do in times past, when they had good town-meetings! ” Ah! if there are in that seven hundred and fifty men who stayed away from the polls in Dedham any who think that affairs ought to be better than they are, any believing that in the town there are fellow-citizens that do not appreciate to the full their rights and their duties, there is abundant call for them to go in and stimulate, elevate, encourage, and strengthen. You think the citadel of power is in danger? You think that the enemies of good government are storming our strong places at the present time? Well, then, the business for you is to rush into the breach, and to stay there until security is assured.

I hear from time to time a good deal said about how this republic of ours and how our State is to go to ruin; that it is to go down through the path of luxury, it may be; that it will go down through some contest between labor and capital; that it will go down to destruction in one or another of many different ways. But I tell you no such thing. If it goes down at all, it will go down over men that have become corpses before there was any struggle at all; if it goes down, it will be because our people will talk of the greatness of the town system, will extol the record of the past, will boast of their Puritan ancestry, and will elevate themselves in the estimation of the world, but will not do one single thing if it interrupts their leisure, or go one step aside from their course or their pleasures, to keep in power the principles that the grand old Puritans established.

When I stood before the humble monument on the Green at Lexington; when in my boyhood I read the record of that inscription for the first time; when I saw the old house in which the heroes lived, and out of which some of them went for the last time on that eventful morning, and talked with the men that survived that onset,—I received an impulse into my very nature that

has made me ever stand for the exercise of that power which under the blessing of God our patriotic fathers made possible for this generation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have far exceeded any reasonable limit of time that could be set me ; but my only excuse shall be that I can by no possibility be with you all again two hundred and fifty years hence. So, for this time and this occasion only, I bid you in behalf of our mother-State the most cordial greeting, the best wishes for the future, — that you shall have all these privileges that you have a right to ask for and that you are fit to enjoy, because you show your purpose to use them. If we do that, if you in this town will take hold of that responsibility and work out that result, the coming historian two hundred and fifty years hence will not be compelled to stop his recital as he approaches the year 1886, but will go on with his glowing periods of power and influence, telling what his ancestors — we of this day — did to secure and perpetuate America's liberty and greatness ; and he will recite all that, and present our great future, as the abundant fruition of the still more glorious past.

The PRESIDENT then read the following toast :—

*“The City of Boston ! Distinguished not more for its literary, educational, and scientific institutions, than for the honor, integrity, and magnificent generosity of its inhabitants.”*

I have the very great pleasure and distinguished honor of introducing to you the Honorable HUGH O'BRIEN, Mayor of the city of Boston.

## ADDRESS OF HON. HUGH O'BRIEN.

MR. PRESIDENT, AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, — After listening to the very eloquent speech of His Excellency the Governor, I have no hesitation in saying, and I know that you will indorse every word I say, that he is a worthy successor of the distinguished men who have hitherto filled the executive chair of the State.

The city of Boston greets the town of Dedham on her two hundred and fiftieth anniversary. Four hundred thousand people, your neighbors, rejoice in your prosperity and the happy auspices under which you celebrate this memorial. What a remarkable history is that of the nation of which you are a part! Two hundred and fifty years ago this country a wilderness, now a nation of sixty millions inhabitants! What marvellous growth! what astonishing prosperity! The city of Boston, your neighbor, is fast enlarging her limits; her boundaries now reach the Dedham line. Who knows what may take place in the next two hundred and fifty years? The city of Boston, the great metropolis of New England, two hundred and fifty years hence, with five millions or six millions of inhabitants, the great city of the North, may then include Dedham within its limits.

You refer in your sentiment, Mr. President, to the city of Boston as promoting and establishing literary, educational, and scientific institutions. Boston is a large, prosperous, and wealthy city; during the past fifty years her population has increased seven-fold, her valuation twelve-fold. Fifty years ago the entire valuation of the city was about sixty million dollars; now it is upward of seven hundred million dollars. Our citizens feel that liberal expenditure for educational purposes is a good investment. In our public schools we have from sixty-five thousand to

seventy thousand scholars, and we expend every year about two million dollars for schoolhouses and school maintenance, — an average of thirty dollars for each pupil. We consider this an investment that brings about good results. It seems a large expenditure when we consider that it costs thirty dollars a year for each scholar; but it gives our boys and girls a good start in life, and plants a foundation for good citizenship. We do not stop here; with schools of technology and our public library, we place in the hands of our children the means of perfecting themselves in any branch of learning. Next to our public schools, the public library is the great educator of our people; it contains a wealth of literature and science and practical knowledge that tempts the ambition of the young and old, and is a source of pleasure to all classes of readers. The best facilities should be extended to young men desirous of perfecting themselves in any branch of knowledge, and Boston has always felt it to be her duty to extend these facilities. If by a liberal policy we produce a man in our day and generation so pre-eminent in any branch of knowledge that he will be considered a public benefactor, it will more than repay us for the expense.

The city of Boston has grown and prospered in part on account of her institutions of learning, for which her expenditures are so liberal, but more particularly on account of the energy and business integrity of her citizens. We have no mineral wealth, no agricultural wealth, but we have energy and push; and with intelligence and educational advantages we stand to-day second only to the great city of New York. As for our benevolence and generosity, we have only to point to what has been done during the past two weeks for the distressed city of Charleston. Upward of sixty-six thousand dollars of voluntary subscriptions have already been received, and

the fund will probably reach one hundred thousand dollars.

I conclude with the hope that Boston and Dedham may long continue good neighbors; and that at some time in the distant future Boston may have incorporated the smaller community within her boundaries.

The PRESIDENT: I have now this toast to propose:—

*“The Fathers of New England!* Surrendering with reluctance a proud and exclusive individuality in the interest of the common defence and the general welfare, these plain and sober but brave masters of a commanding common-sense constructed a frame of civil government unsurpassed in strength and endurance.”

I have the high honor of inviting Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, to respond to this toast.

#### ADDRESS OF DR. GEORGE E. ELLIS.

Mr. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, — I have reason to believe that seven generations of my ancestry, including my parents, lie in the soil of this town. My library fire is kept cheerful by wood grown on the paternal acres here; and as I saw Mr. French with a load of excellent wood passing in your procession, I hoped that he might leave that at my house. From my earliest years I have been familiar with the names of localities which I suppose are known only to the residents of Dedham. Singular words they are, — “Cutham,” “Tiot,” “Clapboardtrees,” “Purgatory” (I hope that is a figurative expression), and “Fox-hill.” My own habits and taste of reading have led me to interest myself very much in the characters and institutions of those who founded these country towns, the original

Puritan stock of Massachusetts. The scenes all around us of thrift and prosperity, of beauty and neatness, — these delightful homes and tidy farms and autumn fields, — are all legacies, results, effects. They certify to us the toil, the self-sacrifice, the wisdom, the virtues, the thought for their posterity of those who first entered this wilderness. More safe, more sure to yield their steady returns, than the deposits in all our banks and the investments in all bonds, are the hard labors and the simple virtues of ancestral generations in securing varied and permanent advantages to those who succeeded them.

Many of you must have taken note of the usage which has steadily and rapidly advanced among us in New England in recent years in the preparation of most elaborate town histories, with extended genealogical tables of our New England families in all their ramifications. This usage, if not peculiar and confined to New England and to those who have adopted it from us, is strikingly characteristic of our own people, and is not known in any other part of Christendom, — certainly not to such a marked extent as regards common, social classes of plain people, comprehensive of the whole population. Nobles and gentry in foreign countries are concerned about pedigrees, even though the bar-sinister often obtrudes itself; but our town histories give us long rolls of genealogies of people of an ordinary range, in nowise individually distinguished, — husbandmen, mechanics, artisans, — excellent but commonplace people, the staple crops of generations of floating humanity, matured and gathered in the annual harvestings. Hard work, domestic comfort, frugality, useful and blameless lives and neighborly satisfactions must have filled out their experience; the emergencies of peril or war have drawn out their energies and proved their nobleness and valor. Interspersed among the pages of these volumes we may mark occasionally a member of the Great and General Court; a physician self-

taught, acquiring his skill at the cost of his patients; an ingenious and thrifty craftsman or manufacturer, with an occasional character of tragedy, as in this town, — hardly many of romance. A vast deal of capacity, pluck, and enterprise has smouldered in young persons in our quiet towns, and they have generally had to remove to wider spheres to exercise their latent abilities. Many of them are in the habit — and a blessed habit it is — of sending back to their early rural homes magnificent gifts and public libraries. These town histories — and I have looked over a vast number of them — are abundantly illustrated with the portraits of the heads and members of families. These counterfeit presentments, I am bound to say, are not generally prepossessing visages. They are not of classic, Grecian, or intellectual mould; their type is peculiar to New England, and not found in any other part of the globe. They even suggest some of Darwin's "missing links," stronger in feature and fibre than in the graces; the faces are generally hard and resolute, indicating a contracted and careworn existence. Of course the portraits of ministers of long and faithful pastorates are found in these volumes; these are varied in benignity and sternness, occasionally marked by stolidity, but very rarely by stupidity. Now, my friends, what is it that prompts the labor and expense, the hearty local appreciation of these volumes of town history? It is rather curiosity, I think, than admiration, rather interest than pride, in the descendants of the good sound stock from which they sprang; honest, laborious, self-governed, God-fearing men, and feminine, rather than male, women, — those who held and transmitted title-deeds of land, who cleared the forests and caught the falling waters and tamed the wilderness; opened highways, beautified the pastures and the meadows, built the schoolhouses and the meeting-house, and could account for all their paternal and filial relations in

the records of their family Bibles as incidents of legal matrimony, which the Old World people cannot always do. These plain people, keenly set upon their own individual rights, sharp, but always ready and generous in serving the common weal, figure in our town histories.

Now, there is one suggestion of a most just and grateful character which not only warrants, but demands, our highest appreciation of our Puritan ancestry. It is this: we are enjoying in full measure, in the heritage which they have left to us, the fruits of all their virtues, but are really in no whit harmed by the peculiar qualities in them which we cannot love and approve. Only what was good in them, in their principles and institutions, has left its effects for us. Their severities and limitations, after giving them a great deal of vexation, have all died with them; their superstitions and prejudices we have given up, if only to give place for others of our own. We find it very easy to rid ourselves of all their scruples and to antiquate their observances. Their Fast Day has become for us a sort of out-of-door thanksgiving festival; and if henceforth there should be a failure of mince-pies for Christmas, it will not be chargeable upon the Puritans, but upon the Prohibitionists who have laid an interdict upon some of the ingredients of that savory viand. While thus we relieve ourselves from the yoke of our fathers, and are in nowise losers or sufferers by any incumbrance which they have left on their heritage, how is it with those principles and institutions, those habits and usages of the fathers which we all commend and approve as the security of public virtue and happiness? It will be a serious subject for some future orator of a most impartial and generous mind to discuss, if he will do it candidly, as to what our New England would have been if left to the development of its own original indigenous stock by its own traditions and methods, and what it is likely to be from the swarming into it



of foreign peoples so unlike our own. On which side the balance of the difference, for loss or gain, for good or evil, as the alternative may be, it is enough to know that those who come from our old stock have been moved to make a stand for their own institutions and their own way of managing them, against alien methods and influences.

This, however, cannot be done by party or race strifes or animosities, but by calm demonstration of the better way. On at least four occasions citizens of Boston have successfully engaged the restraining power of the legislature to interpose in keeping their municipal administration in its old paths of economy and responsibility; for protecting ancient burial-grounds and commons; for limiting taxation and indebtedness, and for providing a police not appointed by those of whom they are to keep a sharp oversight. There need be no variance or conflict between those who have succeeded native-born, through their generations, to this fair heritage of the Puritans and those who find it so attractive, so free, so prosperous as to seek here for what they could not have or enjoy on the other side of the ocean.

The PRESIDENT: The next toast which I have to present is as follows:—

*“The Sons and Daughters of Dedham, and their Descendants wherever dispersed! God bless them! We welcome them with open arms to the hospitalities of this occasion.”*

It has always been a pleasant and attractive recollection of the celebration of 1836, the one more frequently mentioned than any other, that the town was then honored with the presence of the Hon. EDWARD EVERETT. It will be to us one of the most pleasing recollections of this occasion that his son

is to reply to the toast which I have just read; and I have the very great pleasure and honor of introducing to you Dr. WILLIAM EVERETT, of Quincy.

ADDRESS OF DR. WILLIAM EVERETT.

MR. PRESIDENT, FELLOW-CITIZENS,—I think I have a right to call you by that name, because one of my ancestors was one of the nineteen men that helped draw up the town covenant to which Mr. WORTHINGTON referred in his address this morning. In the true Puritan fashion, he and his associates settled what a town ought to be in advance, and then admitted every one who would agree to do exactly as they said; much as I once heard a Californian describe the process of getting up a new mining company: "Three fellows get up a constitution, and then assess the rest." In the next generation my ancestor attained the modest town honors of which we were told to-day. He was Captain John Everett,—of course a distinguished man; and he was one of five who got the right to the town lands confirmed by Josias, the grandson of Chickatabut. You see the honest men of Dedham had shrunk from nineteen to five, yet there was an Everett among them; and I suppose that entitles me to claim one fifth of the territory of Old Dedham whenever I ask for it. Then, in the next generation, we rose a step further; we had had a founder, we had had a captain,—now we were real good boys, and they made one of us Deacon John Everett, and beyond that town honors do not go.

The last of my own race born in this town was my grandfather Oliver; and as this is a family matter, I should like to take up a little time with his life. His father was a poor farmer with nine sons, and only one of them could receive

a college education. Oliver, though by no means strong, was apprenticed to his brother as a carpenter, and forced to renounce all thought of a professional life. One consolation only he had,—a taste for music; and had by some means scraped together money enough to buy a violin. But my great-grandfather's rigid Puritanism thought all music a waste of time, and that instrument in particular an abomination; so the violin was confiscated and burned. The discipline had its effect; music died out in the blood for three generations. He worked on in his drudgery till twenty-one; and the moment he became his own master resolved in spite of his poverty to force his way to college, which he did at the age of twenty-three. When I think of the sacrifice such a process demanded, I am ashamed to think of our boys, brought up in every luxury, whose parents cannot persuade them to stay at school after fifteen or sixteen years of age, because they must be in a store making money, which they will not know how to spend when made. The labor bore its fruit. My grandfather, after graduating in 1779, became the honored pastor of the New South Church in 1781. He there carried out a character which has belonged to the whole race of Everetts in history or in fiction so far as I know,—a somewhat rebellious nature. Sir Walter Scott has an Everett in one of his novels, and a very unmanageable person he is. We have all a streak of revolt. When my grandfather was a candidate, there was a knot of old ladies, mothers in Israel, who used to meet with their knitting in the tower of the Old South and catechise all the young ministers. Oliver Everett was the first to raise the standard of revolt; he would not be catechised by the old ladies, and his rebellion stopped the practice. He was pastor ten years; his health broke down; he retired to his native county (we all have to get back to Norfolk), though to

another town; he lived an honored life, was one of the first eulogists of Washington in February, 1800, and was voted for for Congress in November, 1802. But it killed him, and he died in December at fifty, having made the name of an old Dedham race loved and honored by distinguished men all over the country. His son's manuscript, which I have in my pocket, says he was the kindest of parents, revered and honored by his children as a second Providence, to whom they looked for every impulse in the home circle.

Now, I have told this audience details, because I believe it is the story of every Dedham man who has gone out to do honor to the town. It illustrates the necessity of "contentment," as Mr. Worthington so well gave it to us. It does not mean repose or inaction. It means making the very best and utmost of home; never leaving home till you are sure it has no more for you, and then leaving it only to carry its principles abroad, and make new Dedhams and Concords, new Plymouths and Bostons, everywhere. I suppose the Dedham settlers were thinking of the discontented people at Cambridge and Dorchester, who hurried to Connecticut before they knew the value of Massachusetts. They and the others who stayed, determined to make the most of her. In this our birth-year they founded the College, the original New Towne college, before Harvard came.

The principle of contentment was to stay at home as long as home had anything to give,—as long as parents and kindred, the house walls, the home fields, the home school, the home college, could give anything, and then go out to spread home wider wherever they went. Dedham men and their children will always keep the thought of her. I am glad that is her name; it shows whence we came and what we have to give. I have no sympathy with those who are trying to revive what they

call the beautiful Indian names, which are mostly uncouth and to us unpronounceable and meaningless. I am glad we are Dedham and not Chickatabut or Quino-bequin; it shows that we belong to the great imperial race which subdued the wilderness here to itself, and having raised Massachusetts to her present perfection is leaving her, not yet exhausted, to spread her freedom and her principles over yet undeveloped lands. I hail it as the race of my ancestor, who tradition says was a soldier in the Low Countries before he came here,—a fighter in the old battleground of freedom and culture in Europe, a pioneer in the battle of freedom and culture here.

The PRESIDENT: The next regular toast is twofold in its nature:—

*“The Common School, the best birthright of every child in Puritan New England! Collegiate education, the noblest gift that the parent can bestow on her children! In the two, fostered and encouraged by the law from the beginning, ‘lies the secret of the success and character of New England.’”*

I have the honor of introducing to you to reply, Rev. Dr. TIMOTHY DWIGHT, President of Yale College.

#### ADDRESS OF DR. DWIGHT.

Mr. PRESIDENT,—I shall be unable to reply to the toast you have given, because I have to take the train leaving Dedham at twenty minutes after five. I will only say, sir, that I came here to worship my ancestors; and I find that in the rejoicing in his ancestry which Mr. EVERETT has exhibited so strikingly in the remarks which he has made, he has forgotten one point of history here

recorded in the annals of Dedham; namely, that the inhabitants felt a disposition to move to the southward. That disposition, sir, followed in the Dwight family, and they moved southward into Connecticut, and there they found the place which you seem to have failed to find here, although you tried for it; namely, the town where "contentment" dwells. That is the town of New Haven, Connecticut. And, as I am obliged to follow my ancestry this afternoon in their migration southward, and am sure of finding contentment when I arrive there, with thanks to you, sir, for your kindness in asking me to say a word, I bid you farewell.

The PRESIDENT:—The next toast which I have to propose is, *The Orator of the Day!* to which Mr. WORTHINGTON will respond.

ADDRESS OF ERASTUS WORTHINGTON, ESQ.

Mr. PRESIDENT,—There used to be a very salutary rule which it was found necessary to adopt in the old village debating-societies,—that no man should speak twice on the same subject. Perhaps at this late hour it would be a good time to enforce such a rule. I recognize the fact that I have had my hour to-day, and I have no heart longer to detain this company. But I suppose that conventional usage prescribes that the orator of the day shall be tendered the compliment of a post-prandial opportunity to speak, with the implication that his speech must be a short one.

I was reminded by the speech of Mr. Everett of a little story which I recently found in one of those bright newspaper paragraphs that appear in the columns of a good newspaper, and which ran somewhat in this manner: "An

eminent master of the violin was performing on his wonderful instrument at a private musical party. In the company were two ladies, one presumably older than the other, who behind her fan quietly imparted to her younger neighbor the important fact that the violin of the master was two hundred and fifty years old. 'Ah,' responded the younger lady, 'if I could make such music as that upon an instrument two hundred and fifty years old, I would try to raise money enough to buy a new one.' This story, among other things, well illustrates the difference between the two kinds of people we meet in the world,—those who think anything is valuable because it is old, and those who value anything because it is new.

There are some of us in Dedham who realize that there is much in the history of the old town which is worthy of being preserved and perpetuated. We agree with the elder lady in the story, that an instrument two hundred and fifty years old has a peculiar capacity for music in it. In 1862 the Dedham Historical Society was incorporated. Quietly and unobtrusively during all these years it has been making a collection which while not extensive is nevertheless unique and valuable. It has never had any proper place where this collection could be arranged, classified, and made accessible; it has been obliged to depend upon the permission of the County Commissioners for a place in the Court House, where it might store that collection. But notwithstanding these disadvantages the Society has kept up its organization and meetings, until now it has the opportunity of taking the position of influence to which it is justly entitled.

In February last, by the will of the late Miss Hannah Shuttleworth, the Society came into the possession of an eligible lot of land in a central location, with the munificent bequest of ten thousand dollars, expressly designated by the testator for the purpose of erecting a suitable build-

ing for the Society. Our plans are matured and the contracts made, and to-morrow morning we propose to begin the new half-century by breaking ground for the new building.

What is quite significant of the deep and genuine interest taken by many of the people of Dedham in the work of this Society is their readiness to respond to our recent request for an additional sum of money. It was found necessary to supplement the amount of the legacy by a considerable sum in order to complete the building according to the plans and specifications. Three weeks ago yesterday we opened a subscription paper for this purpose. Without any extraordinary effort, and asking, besides the members of the Society, those only whom we supposed to be specially interested in Dedham history, we have now obtained pledges amounting to nearly fifteen hundred dollars; and, what gives us a peculiar satisfaction, these pledges have been given heartily and generously, and with many words of encouragement.

In this way those of us who realize that not only what remains of our local history of two hundred and fifty years should be gathered up, treasured, and perpetuated, but also those things which must form a part of present and future history, rejoice in beginning a new half-century with an appropriate building to be devoted to those purposes.

The PRESIDENT: I have now the pleasant duty to propose a toast which must elicit a warm response from every heart:—

*The Patriot Soldiers of Dedham!* Brave and true men, they fought not for ambition or titles or fame, but for their country, for freedom, for humanity.



I have the honor of introducing to you to respond to this toast Colonel JAMES M. ELLIS, of West Dedham:—

ADDRESS OF COLONEL ELLIS.

Mr. CHAIRMAN,—I thank you, sir, for calling upon me to respond to this toast, because as an humble agriculturist I did not expect so much honor, and chiefly because I wish our honored guests from different parts of the State and country to know that this town here by the banks of the Charles, with its many spots of historic interest, its beautiful streets, its Court House and convenient jail, is but a small part of the town of Dedham; that the æsthetic and agricultural part lies to the west among the hills, from whose summits one may look on a panorama of exquisite beauty, with Wachusett and Monadnock on the one side, and Blue Hill and the waters of Boston Harbor on the other. On these health-giving hills we raise a sturdy stock, a fair specimen of which sits by your side, Mr. Chairman,—our youthful Joseph Colburn, who at eighty-one has to-day been one of General Weld's chief aids, riding at the head of the column, and I doubt not expects to do like service fifty years hence. At one time we thought of establishing a town of our own, to be called "Contentment;" but the doctrine of secession having been settled by the war, we have decided to stay with our old mother, who has stood by us so well.

Responding more especially to the sentiment proposed, it seems to me, sir, eminently fitting that you should honor the patriot soldiers of Dedham by giving them a place in the records of this day; for I believe that the citizens of Dedham have ever been prompt to respond to the country's call, and to defend their hearths and homes, from the days

when the first settlers shouldered the old "King's Arms," a specimen of which still hangs in the old Fairbanks kitchen, and the days when Captain Joseph Guild led his minute-men to Concord, down to the dark days of 1861 and the war for the Union.

The orator of the day, in his address at the dedication of Memorial Hall, has so well and fully told the story of the services of Dedham soldiers that I need only to state briefly a few facts. While there were those from Dedham serving in various commands on land and sea during the Civil War, the chief enlistments from this town were in Company F of the Eighteenth, Company I of the Thirty-fifth, and Company D of the Forty-third Regiments of Massachusetts Volunteers. The Forty-third, a nine-months regiment, served only in North Carolina, taking part in the battles of Kinston and White Hall. The Eighteenth served chiefly in the Virginia campaigns, in the Army of the Potomac, under General Fitz-John Porter, — a brave and gallant officer, whose recent restoration to the army rolls gives great satisfaction to his soldiers. In the second battle of Bull Run the Eighteenth received its first baptism of blood, and suffered severe loss, more than sixty per cent of those engaged being either killed or wounded. Here fell Captain Charles W. Carroll, in whose honor our Post is named, whose patriotic ardor, bravery in action, and soldier's death will ever give him a tender place in the memories of his townsmen. The Thirty-fifth Regiment left in the second year of the war, and formed a part of the Ninth Corps, under General Burnside. When only a month in service it took part in the terrible battles of South Mountain and Antietam, and suffered heavy loss, more than two thirds of its officers and one third of its men being killed or disabled. The Dedham soldiers fought and fell at Fredericksburg and Gettysburg, in the battles of the Wilderness, in the siege of Knoxville, in crossing the bridge

under Burnside at Antietam, in facing the fierce fusillade of fire from the stone-wall on Marye's Heights, in charging over the ramparts and into the crater at Petersburg, and in the closing campaign of the war under Grant. Wherever placed, these Dedham men showed their bravery in action and their heroism in death.

And now, sir, this anniversary which we celebrate to-day,—this decorated town, these flying colors, this flag of our Union over all,—what would it have been had these men died in vain, and we to-day a part of a divided country? Many of you here recall the march of the first Massachusetts soldiers from the front of Boylston Hall in Boston, and through the streets of Baltimore. The flag on Sumter had been fired upon from the city of Charleston; and in bitter hatred South Carolina and Massachusetts were face to face in the beginning of a bloody war. To-day we are indeed at peace, and instead of sending thousands of men to destroy our Southern brethren, we are sending thousands of dollars to help and comfort them, and to build up again their shattered and fallen homes. We can well believe that we are united in brotherhood again when the editor of the leading Charleston paper can say to his readers: "What I want to bring up to you now is this glorious fact, that this city of Charleston, so symbolic of all that stood for disunion and civil strife in the days of the past, is in the poignancy of her grief furnishing to-day to the civilized world and to the Republic proof of the fact that all Americans are kin, and that this is indeed and in truth one people and one country;" and Mayor Courtenay of that city can say in his despatch, "What a great thing it is to be a part of this magnificent Union of States, surrounded by those who sympathize with us in our distress!"

Two hundred and fifty thousand men form the Grand Army of the Republic. "Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty,"

are the watchwords emblazoned on their banners. Their duty to-day is to see that the Union, preserved on the field of battle, shall be maintained for all time; and they mean to do this, not by force of arms, but by *fraternity* which embraces all their countrymen, by a *charity* which sends their commander-in-chief to Charleston to see that our old enemies shall not suffer, and by a *loyalty* that is unconditional.

In behalf of my comrades I desire, in closing, to thank the Committee for giving them a place of honor in the festivities of this day, and to express the hope that all the celebrations of the future which this town shall see may be like this of to-day, with its procession and pomp and parade, under a bright sun and under the flag of the united nation in a victory of peace.

The PRESIDENT: I will now read two toasts, to which I will ask my friend WINSLOW WARREN, Esq., to respond. First, —

*The Committee of Arrangements!* We recognize with thanks their zeal and efficiency in the performance of their duties on this occasion.

Second, —

*The Pilgrim Fathers!*

“ Ay, call it holy ground,  
The soil where first they trod !  
They have left unstained what there they found, —  
Freedom to worship God.”

## ADDRESS OF WINSLOW WARREN, Esq.

MR. PRESIDENT, MY NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS, — We are now coming down to the official toasts, when a man has to do double duty; but my speech, I can assure you, will be very brief. On behalf of the Committee of Arrangements I desire to say, that if our efforts to make this day a success have been in any measure rewarded, that reward has come from your enjoyment of the occasion and from the many evidences of satisfaction throughout the town. But our speech has been made. Ours was the hand that struck the rock from which has gushed forth the wisdom, the wit, and the eloquence you have heard to-day. No, not our hand, but the hands of all those ladies and gentlemen who have labored day and night to make this celebration a worthy one; and I take the liberty now on your behalf of tendering the thanks of the people of Dedham to all the sub-committees and all those who have worked so faithfully for you.

But I cannot stand here as an adopted son of this town of Dedham without recalling that it has been my rare good fortune within the short space of sixteen years to celebrate *two* two hundred and fiftieth anniversaries of towns near and dear to me, — one, of my native town of Plymouth; and now again, of my adopted town of Dedham. And the connection between those two events is not so distant as many of you may think; for I find on reading the records of the old Pilgrim Colony that in 1627, when the first division of land was made by lot among the settlers, after providing for the metes and bounds of the various lots, the Court added as follows: "That whatsoever the surveyors judge sufficient shall stand without contradiction or opposition, and every man

shall rest *contented* with his lot." This, I believe, is the first and only Pilgrim pun on record.

Now, turning to your records, I find that after your Pilgrim Fathers made their perilous voyage up the stormy Charles from Watertown, and landed on these shores, mindful of the Pilgrim injunction of Plymouth they "rested contented with their lot;" and more than that, they named their town "Contentment," and there it remains on your town-seal to-day, — a bond of union between the oldest town of Plymouth County and the oldest town (save one) of Norfolk County. And I cannot forget as I look round this hall that here are the descendants of those men. When I see a Fairbanks, a Fisher, and an Ellis, a Guild and a Baker, the old names of your settlers come up before me, and I recognize the names of honorable families honorably borne down the years since that early settlement. And so it is, my friends, with the peculiar characteristics of this town of Dedham. No town in New England has to-day the characteristics of those early times more plainly marked than yours. What else was it that carried to the front in the Revolutionary War nearly every able-bodied man in Dedham? What else that inspired the patriotic fervor and devotion of a Carroll, a Lathrop, and of many others who now remain among us? What else put that man, whose name is upon every one's lips to-day, your distinguished townsman Fisher Ames, easily at the forefront of post-Revolutionary orators, and carried his eminent son, Seth Ames, to the supreme judgeship of Massachusetts, — the most lovable of judges, whose smile was truly a benediction, and whose words of wisdom made their impress on the judicial reports of Massachusetts? What else gave to you the learning of a Dwight, the eloquence of an Everett, the culture and refinement of him whom we knew and never will forget, — our friend and once our neighbor, Edmund Quincy? What else gave to

us the sturdy, incorruptible character of that foremost of our citizens,—whose place, alas! is vacant here to-day,—Judge Waldo Colburn, whom all of us respected, and whose name will forever remain in the annals of Dedham?

I might go on, but I am reminded that the time is drawing near when these exercises should close, and I will conclude by quoting to you a reply that the Committee of Arrangements received from one of our distinguished guests, who, unable to be here, wrote us that he regretted his “inability to attend the Five Hundred and Twentieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Dedham.” We too regret his inability, and we regret the possibility that some of us also may not be able to attend; but we can all join in the hope that when the Five Hundred and Twentieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Dedham shall arrive, it may find this town no less prosperous and contented than the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary leaves it.

The PRESIDENT: Ladies and Gentlemen, the next toast is,—

*Our Naturalized Fellow-Citizens!* Loyal to every duty of peace or war. Happy, proud America knows no distinction between her children by birth and her children by adoption.

I had invited Rev. ROBERT J. JOHNSON, my friend and a friend of Dedham, to respond, but he is unavoidably absent. He however sent his reply, which is as follows:—

ADDRESS OF REV. ROBERT J. JOHNSON.

Mr. PRESIDENT, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,—The invitation to speak to the sentiment which has just been offered, reached me only yesterday. My words there-

fore must of course be of a hastily-considered character, and far from doing justice to the broad field of patriotic survey and reflection which it opens out.

The naturalized citizens of Dedham join as heartily as their native-born neighbors in celebrating this anniversary of its settlement as a town. They feel an equal pride in its history, and an equal pride in its future.

You have well said that America "knows no distinction between her children by birth and her children by adoption;" and indeed it is the distinctive glory of our land that she welcomes to the support and the shelter of her flag all the honest manhood of the world, no matter under what skies it was born. Our orators may descant upon the glories of America through all the centuries to come without finding any nobler thing to say of her than has been already said in two famous and familiar lines,—

"For her free latch-string never was drawn in  
Against the poorest child of Adam's kin."

The great and far-seeing men who founded the Republic which thus opens its arms to all the children of men, had the prescience to perceive that its destiny and mission was to be the home of a more comprehensive nationality than any that the world had yet seen, in which all civilized races should merge to form the mightiest people of all time. We look back to their work, and say that they builded better than they knew; yet after all, they but followed the instinct of their situation. For we must remember that Hamilton, Gallatin, Gates, Steuben, Montgomery, Witherspoon, and many other of the Revolutionary statesmen and soldiers, and several of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, were themselves emigrants to this country, foreigners by birth and Americans by adoption. What, therefore, could be more natural than that they should have laid the foundations of our government



broad enough to sustain a national life whose blood should be enriched by continual drafts from the original sources of its being? The wisdom of the fathers has been grandly justified by a century of marvellous growth and progress. The benign spirit which framed a political and social order to which all the sons of Adam were freely bidden to come in, has resulted in building a nation of three millions up to a nation of sixty millions of people. The census of 1880 shows that since the year 1820 over ten millions of people have come into this country from foreign lands, and of this number three millions came here from the land of Emmet, O'Connell, and Parnell. They have brought here stout hearts and willing hands; and, more than this, they have brought with them a valuable element in our citizenship, and a tower of strength to the institutions which they have made their own.

The sentiment you have proposed, Mr. President, recognizes the naturalized citizen as loyal to every duty of peace or war. History justifies this recognition. In every crisis which the country has been called to face, the citizen of foreign birth has been found faithful and devoted. On every battlefield of the Revolution, from Bunker Hill to Yorktown; in the war that carried our flag to the capital of Mexico and gave us the Californias; and still more conspicuously in the war for the preservation of the Union,—the adopted American proved himself a brave soldier and a true citizen.

Readers of Revolutionary history know how large and honorable a share Irishmen had in the sacrifices and victories of that birth-struggle of the Republic. It has been said of the gallant Richard Montgomery, who joined the army of Washington in the gloomy winter of 1775, that "a detailed history of his military career would form an epitome of our early Revolutionary struggle." The name of John Stark, the hero of the battle of Bennington, is

closely associated with the same epoch. Major Andrew McCleary was not the only Irishman who fought on Bunker Hill, though his giant form is one of the most striking figures in that famous battle. The name of Carroll, of Carrollton, lives forever as one of the signers of the great Declaration, of Irish blood and lineage; and we may recall that the first printer and publisher of that immortal document was John Dunlap, a native of Ireland and a brave officer under Washington. In the same line of Revolutionary memories we are proud to recount the names of Edward Hand, Washington's favorite adjutant-general; of Henry Knox, Washington's chief-of-artillery and afterwards a member of his cabinet; of Stephen Moylan, another of Washington's favorite generals; of Ephraim Blaine, one of Washington's quartermasters, and from whom James G. Blaine is descended; of George Ewing, who shared the terrible winter of 1777 with Washington at Valley Forge, and whose son was the distinguished Senator Thomas Ewing, of Ohio; of Daniel Morgan, whose skill and valor won the battle of the Cowpens, and later helped to defeat Burgoyne; of John Sullivan, another of Washington's trusty generals, afterwards Governor of New Hampshire, and whose brother, James Sullivan, was one of the early Governors of Massachusetts; of James Graham, who commanded in fifteen battles against the King's troops before he was twenty-three years of age; and of John Gibson, who fought in all our battles with England, from Trenton to Yorktown.

In the naval combats of the war for Independence Irish bravery was not less conspicuous. It was Jerry O'Brien who fought and won our first battle on the seas with the British John Rogers. The first commodore of the American navy commissioned by Washington was John Barry, the son of a Wexford farmer, who in answer to Lord Howe's offer of a bribe of twenty thousand guineas said:

"I am a poor man, but the King of England has not money enough to buy me." David Porter was another Irish naval officer of distinction in the same struggle, father of another David Porter, who was one of the foremost heroes of 1812, and grandfather of the Admiral David D. Porter of our own day. And when we come down to the second war with Britain, the names of Andrew Jackson and Alexander Macomb in our army, and of Decatur, Porter, Blakeley, Rodgers, McDonough, Perry, and Stewart in our navy, all bear historic testimony to the signal services which men of Irish birth or parentage rendered to the early cause of American liberty. This does not exhaust the list by any means; I have merely enumerated a few of the more shining names. George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted son of General Washington, says: "Of the operatives in war—the soldiers I mean—up to the coming of the French, Ireland furnished in the ratio of one hundred for one of any foreign nation whatever." Well, indeed, may the Irish-born citizen of America feel that his patriotism has its roots deep down in the deeds of his forefathers, and proudly claim that the American flag is his, not merely by the right of his own sworn allegiance, but by all the sacred associations that cluster around more than a century of partnership in the sacrifices and successes that have made America the first nation of the earth. The Irishman who could do aught else but love America would, in the light of this history, be an unaccountable phenomenon.

We all know how, at the call of Lincoln in a later crisis, the ranks of the great armies that poured Southward to defend the flag were swollen by thousands upon thousands of these men who had learned to love America with a love as deep as any that was borne towards her by her native sons. The generals of the great war included many a gal-

lant man of Irish birth or blood, — Sheridan, Shields, Corcoran, Meagher, and a hundred others whose names I do not need to rehearse, because the history of that struggle is still fresh in the general recollection. The roll-calls of the regiments that followed Grant through the Wilderness, marched with Sherman to the sea, rode with Sheridan down the valley of the Shenandoah, or stood with Meade and Hancock at Gettysburg, bear eloquent testimony to the profound and fervent patriotism of the foreign-born citizen-soldier. We have the authority of Holy Writ for saying that greater love hath no man for another than that he lay down his life for him. Nor can there be any greater love of country than that which offers itself a willing sacrifice on the altar of her necessity. The good old town of Dedham knows how well her adopted citizens kept faith with the flag in the nation's hour of need. The monument on which she preserves the record of her contribution to the long list of heroes who perished that the Republic might live, includes the names of many gallant sons of Erin, who, loving their adopted land with all the ardor with which they loved their own, went forth from the workshops, the factories, and the farms of this peaceful town and returned no more.

Speaking now, as I may be permitted to do, more especially of our citizens of Irish birth and descent, who form about one third of the present population of Dedham, I can say for them without boasting that they not only love their chosen country, but are deeply attached to the State and to this historic town. Their homes are here and all their treasures; and "where the treasure is, there will the heart be also."

It is, perhaps, not sufficiently borne in mind that the Irish-American has special and peculiar incentives to the love of his adopted country. We appreciate our blessings largely by contrast; the boon of liberty is more valued

by those who have lived and suffered where liberty was not; the blessings of free government are estimated more nearly at their true value by those who have endured the curse of tyranny and oppression. The citizen of Irish birth comes here with just such an appreciation of liberty and free government; he knows, by bitter experience, what it is to be denied the inalienable rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Finding here what was denied to him in the land of his birth, he naturally and rapidly acquires a sincere and ardent attachment to the institutions of his adopted land, which in depth and intensity far exceeds that of his more favored fellow-citizens, who never felt the weight of despotic rule.

It is well that we should not forget that patriotism is the child of religion. Love of God involves love of man and love of country. Cardinal Manning says: "It is a part of our Catholic theology that a man is bound by the gift of piety to love his country. . . . Our countrymen are our kindred. Their welfare, their peace, their defence, their prosperity, ought to be an object of our most hearty, resolute, self-denying, and self-sacrificing devotion. We are like men on board ship,—all that are together have one common interest; they are all alike in peril or in safety." This conception of the moral obligations of the individual citizen to the whole community of which he is a part, which I quote from the great Catholic prelate of England, is the conception which Irishmen carry with them into all lands, wherever their lot may be cast. In this spirit I am glad to join these commemorative exercises.

Two centuries and a half is a long period in the annals of American civilization. It carries us back to the very beginnings of our Continental story. Age gives character to communities as well as to individuals. Our town is one of the oldest places of settled habitation in New England, and the town-meeting—which Adams, I think, calls "the

miniature republic"—has given to it a continuous career of orderly self-government. It has partaken of the growth of the State as a whole, and shared in the changes which that growth has brought about. Nevertheless, it has preserved much that was well worth keeping from former generations,—a reputation for honesty, integrity, and order as a community,—and it has successfully blended the old with the new; so that we may to-day not only look back to the past with satisfaction, but forward to its future with hope. The naturalized citizen will be, as he has already been, an important and a valuable factor in that future. I venture the prophecy that he will never be found wanting in the performance of his whole duty to the township or to the grand old Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He realizes fully that whatever makes for the welfare and prosperity of either, makes also for his welfare and prosperity.

In behalf, then, of your naturalized fellow-citizens, claiming with you an equal pride in its honorable past, and an equal share with you in the honorable and happy future which, if it please God, is yet in store for it, I join you, with all my heart, in wishing all good wishes for the prosperity of the town of Dedham.

The PRESIDENT: There is one more toast, and only one, —

*The Town of Dedham!* Stable in character, prudent and conservative in conduct, she points with pride to two hundred and fifty years of steady and unbroken progress; to every obligation promptly met; to her ample treasury and her freedom from debt; to her liberal appropriations for public education; and to her happy, contented, and prosperous inhabitants.

I have the honor of introducing to you, to respond to this toast, A. B. WENTWORTH, Esq., of Dedham, one of our board of Selectmen.

ADDRESS OF ALONZO B. WENTWORTH, ESQ.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I should prefer at this late hour to follow the example of Father Johnson, and submit my speech to the reporters; but as the representative of the present town government, a few words will be pardoned with which to conclude the highly satisfactory exercises of this occasion.

Although Dedham has been shorn of the ample territorial proportions of 1636, when she extended from Cambridge to the Providence Plantation, she has preserved unsullied the essential elements of the grant to the original proprietors. To the adjoining city on the north, and to the towns on the east, south, and west, she has given of her territory, and contributed to make new municipalities, some of which to-day excel her in wealth and population; but she has, none the less, maintained in all its fulness her character as a well-ordered and progressive community.

Her duty to the Colony, the Commonwealth, and the Republic has been faithfully performed throughout her history. The men of Dedham were with Captain Church at Mt. Hope, with Sir William Pepperrell at Louisburg, among the "embattled farmers" at Lexington and Concord, with Washington at Valley Forge and Yorktown, with McClellan at Antietam, and with Grant at Appomattox. She contributed the illustrious name of Horace Mann to the cause of education, the eminent services of Haven, Metcalf, Colburn, and Wilkinson to the judiciary, and to the councils of the Republic Dexter and Dowse and Fisher Ames. Through all the changes of two and a half cen-

turies her simple town government, with its Selectmen and other town officers, has been maintained. Town-meetings have been regularly held, where town business is transacted, appropriations made, town officers elected, and men and measures discussed. Indeed, the town government alone remains in its original form.

The Province, Confederation, and Colony are gone; the church, which was the counterpart of the old town, has been divided; but the town government remains, a monument to the good sense and free spirit of its founders. Their brightest anticipations are excelled in the comfortable houses of her thrifty farmers, the extent and variety of her industrial pursuits, the beauty of her suburban residences, her imposing public buildings, and the material prosperity of all her citizens.

In receiving the congratulations and good wishes of her children and grandchildren on this occasion, Dedham, without boasting, can say that the purposes of her original settlers in organizing popular government have been faithfully pursued. If she has been conservative and prudent, she has not been obstructive or prudish. Her obligations have been faithfully kept; her appropriations for schools, highways, and the poor have been ample; her devotions to deserving charity have been liberal; and no debt with its weight of accumulating interest has been allowed to burden her citizens. Her growth has been natural and healthy; and, pursuing the simplicity of the fathers, she presents to-day the rich fruition of the conceptions and hopes of the good and brave men who first penetrated the forests and established here a settlement.

It cannot be expected, in the course of nature, that many of us will be present at the third centennial, in 1936; but I can express no better wish for those who may be than that a more abundant measure of prosperity may



attend their increasing numbers, — and for the town, that her affairs may in the mean time be administered with a like fidelity and sense of public responsibility.

The exercises at the tent closed at 5.30 o'clock, the lateness of the hour forbidding other speeches which had been expected. The SCHUBERT CLUB, under the direction of Mr. ARTHUR W. THAYER, furnished appropriate music for the afternoon, which added much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

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At two o'clock, P.M., a concert was given by the NORWOOD BAND on the Church Green.

A collation was furnished by the Committee of Arrangements to the Cadets, upon Mr. WARREN's grounds on High Street, during the afternoon, and their band gave a complimentary concert to a large company of ladies and gentlemen there assembled.

At four o'clock, P.M., the CADET BAND gave a concert on the Church Green.

At sunset a national salute was fired and the church bells rung, and a concert was given by the Norwood Band on the Common.

At seven o'clock, P.M., a very elaborate display of fireworks, under the direction of Mr. GEORGE R. JOHNSTONE, was made on the Common, followed by a general illumination of the town, the burning of

tar-barrels, etc. A reception and dance at Memorial Hall, with music by Baldwin's string band, closed the festivities of the day.

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A final meeting of the Committee of Arrangements was held on Saturday, September 25, when the thanks of the Committee were tendered the Secretary for his efficient and valuable services, and the Chairman was requested to extend the cordial thanks of the Committee to the Chief-Marshal, Orator, and Presidents of the Day, and to the various committees and others who had assisted in the very successful celebration.

## THE HISTORICAL COLLECTION.

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THE collection of articles of local and historic interest which was displayed in the Unitarian Vestry attracted much attention, and proved to be one of the most interesting features of the celebration. Notwithstanding the short time allowed for preparation, the Committee were able to present a collection of rare merit and value. The response to the appeal of the Committee was prompt and enthusiastic, and the extent and variety of the collection was a genuine surprise and a source of gratification to a very large number of visitors.

A prominent feature of the exhibition was the representation of an old-fashioned New England kitchen, the tasteful and intelligent handiwork of some of the young ladies of the Committee, illustrating the primitive habits and simple life of those who dwelt in the Dedham of a century ago.

The Picture Room contained more than forty portraits, many of them of rare artistic merit, of persons identified with Dedham families. The collection of miniatures, photographs, engravings, and small paintings in oils and water-colors was also large and valuable.

The main hall of the building was almost entirely filled with a collection of more than a thousand specimens of ancient articles, embracing very valuable contributions of Indian and Colonial relics, silver, glass, china, plated and wooden ware, chairs, furniture, household utensils, embroidery, fancy-work, wearing apparel, etc., tastefully arranged and displayed, the mere enumeration of which would fill many pages of this volume.

It had been the intention of the Committee in charge of the Historic Collection to further mark the day of the celebration by planting two trees in the rear of the Unitarian Church ; but the season proving too early for their safe transplanting, that interesting ceremony was necessarily postponed. Hon. THEODORE LYMAN, of Brookline, having generously given the Committee two beautiful Norway maple-trees, taken from his nursery, they were set out under the direction of the Chairman of the Committee on the 5th of November. May the three hundredth anniversary of the town's incorporation find them flourishing in vigor and beauty!

# REPORT

OF THE

## COMMITTEE ON HISTORIC TABLETS AND MONUMENTS.

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THE Committee appointed by the town, to whom was assigned the agreeable duty of erecting tablets or monuments to mark places and objects of historic interest, and of restoring and preserving any such existing monuments in the town, in the discharge of that duty aimed to use the sum placed at their disposal for the preservation and perpetuation of such historic objects and places as have public and permanent interest. While such localities may not be numerous in Dedham, the number might with propriety have been extended further, had the appropriation been more ample.

Two historic monuments are dear to the memory of all who were either born or reared in Dedham. The old brick Powder House "on the great rock in Aaron Fuller's land" is a place where several generations of Dedham boys and girls have delighted to resort, and whither they turn after years of absence to view again the charming landscape. The plain unfinished stone which has stood in the corner of the court-house yard during the memory of those now living has had a mystery about it which few could solve, if it has not escaped the observation of many who have passed it daily for years. It did not re-

quire much deliberation to determine that these monuments of ante-Revolutionary times were worthy of especial attention. The ancient burial-place where reposes the dust of all the first generation of Dedham settlers also called for some permanent designation. The original training-field, known in later times as the "Great Common," for the preservation of whose boundaries there has been in former times a singular indifference, although it is perhaps the only ground in Dedham to which the public have an indisputable right, certainly deserved to be marked in such a manner that its original purpose should not be wholly forgotten. And finally, the location of the first mill and dam has a great interest, since in their erection was signally shown the great enterprise and foresight of the founders of the town.

To these five places and monuments the Committee have been obliged to confine their attention. Bronze tablets bearing simple historic inscriptions in polished raised letters, made by M. H. Mossman, of Chicopee, Mass., have been placed on the Powder House and "The Pillar of Liberty;" and a third has been inserted in a stone specially selected for the purpose, and placed in the wall of the old Parish Burial-Ground.

The Committee also on the day of the anniversary celebration, with a moderate sum drawn from the general appropriation by the authority of the Committee of Arrangements, were enabled to designate by temporary inscriptions a number of interesting places where old houses and buildings formerly stood, and to give the dates of the erection of some prominent houses now standing. A list of these will be found at the end of this report.

## THE BURIAL-PLACE.

At the first recorded meeting of the proprietors, Aug. 18, 1636, before the settlement had been named Dedham by the General Court of the Colony, while it was yet called by the settlers themselves Contentment, lots were set out and measured by Thomas Bartlet to seven persons named, each lot containing twelve acres,—all of which was confirmed at this meeting; and from the description of these lots in the Book of Grants it appears that the lot of Nicholas Phillips, one of the seven men, was abutted upon Charles River towards the north, and the swamp and burying-place towards the south, the high street running through the same.

From this record it seems that a lot was set apart as a resting-place of the dead before even the homes of the living were provided for. Under date of “6 of y<sup>e</sup> 2 Mo. 1638” in the first Book of Town Records,—

“Nicholas Philips and Joseph Kingsbery upon  
other satisfaction in Lands layed out from  
the Towne unto each of them doe laye downe  
each of them to the Towne one p<sup>t</sup>cell of y<sup>e</sup>  
south end of their house Lotts and betwixt  
the same and the swamp thereby as it is  
at p<sup>t</sup>sent set out for the use of a public  
Buriall place for y<sup>e</sup> Towne forever.”

The lot of Joseph Kingsbury was that originally granted to Ezekiel Holliman, and by him sold to Joseph Kingsbury, and was described in the original grant as

“Twelve acres more or lesse as lyeth betweene the way (Court St.) leading from the Keye to y<sup>e</sup> Pond towards the East and Nicholas Phillips towards the west and butts vpon y<sup>e</sup> said way wynding towards y<sup>e</sup> North and the way leading to y<sup>e</sup> burying place (east end of Village Avenue) towards the South, the high Street through the same.”

In 1638 Joseph Kingsbury sold to the town a part of this lot “for a Seat for a publike Meetinge House,” the very lot on which the first church now stands.

The ancient burial-ground is that part of the old cemetery bounded by Village Avenue on the north, by the Episcopal Church land on the east, by what is known as the new part added by the late Dr. Edward Stimson on the south, while the west line is within or very near the present main driveway from Village Avenue, and contains about one acre.

In 1813, '14, '15, about an acre was added on the west by purchases from the estate of John Bullard and from Timothy Gay. In 1859 and 1860 an important addition was made by Dr. Edward Stimson, who purchased lands south of the ancient grounds, which he divided into lots and conveyed to different persons for burial-lots. After the death of Dr. Stimson, his son Frederic J. Stimson, Esq., conveyed in 1880 to the town the avenues and paths and other open spaces not occupied for burial-lots upon the land which his father had purchased and laid out; and in 1885 a small corner was added by purchase from Mrs. Elizabeth S. Adams, not for burial purposes, but for use in the care of the grounds.

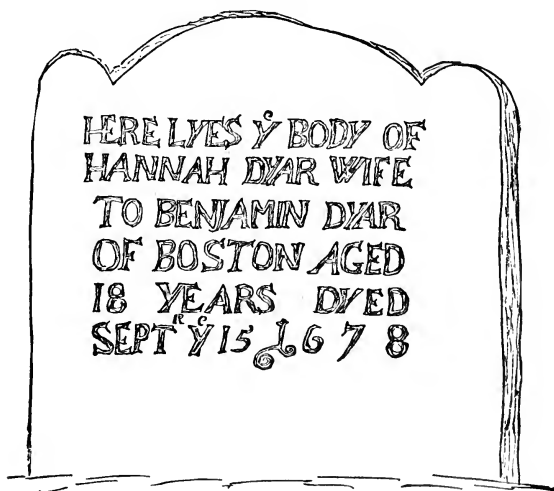
The way from the Meeting House to the burial-ground (Bullard St.) was laid out in 1664, under the following vote: —



"It is ordered and granted that a sufficient Beere waye one Rodd broade shall be layed out upon the West side of the Church Lott on that side next M<sup>r</sup>. Allins house Lott from the Meeteing house to the Buriall place and that the said buriall place and waye be clerred from shruffe. 2-11-64."

In 1671 a committee consisting of Leift. Fisher and Elea<sup>r</sup> Lusher "are deputed to enforme themselves so far as they well can where the fence should be set about the burial-place, and direct Cornellius Fisher to set it up accordingly, or who else are concerned in that work."

The first death recorded in Dedham is that of John Fisher, deceased the "15<sup>th</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>mo</sup> 1637." The gravestone of the earliest date now standing is that of Hannah Dyar. It is a fine specimen of imported dark-blue slate two inches and a half thick, and there is also a footstone of the same material, with the initials H. D. thereon. The inscription on the headstone is as follows: —



This unfortunate young wife, the daughter of William and Margaret Avery, was born 27-7-1660, and married Benjamin Dyar, 22-3-1677.

A few years ago the superintendent of the old Copp's Hill Burial Ground in Boston discovered beneath the surface (where, he says, it had doubtless been covered for more than a century) a double stone containing an inscription six months older than any other original inscription in the ground. It was erected in memory of the grandchildren of William Copp. One inscription bears date of 1661, but the other of July 25, 1678, the very year of the inscription on the headstone of Hannah Dyar above given; but more remarkable still is the marked similarity in the form of the letters and figures on these two stones, which are very peculiar, as though cut by the same hand. The character and shape of the two stones are also similar, except that the Copp's Hill stone, being a double stone, is wider; the design also is the same.

The late Dr. Danforth P. Wight, in a very interesting paper read before the Dedham Historical Society a few years ago, stated that for a long time but four tombs were built here, and these at different times. The first was by Timothy Dwight, about the year 1700; the second, that of Daniel Fisher. The third tomb was built by Samuel Dexter after the death of his father, the Rev. Samuel Dexter, in 1755; and the fourth is of Edward Dowse, who died in 1828. The parish tomb was built in 1816, and since that time the range of tombs connected with it and those on the west side have been added.

The matters concerning the cemetery were recorded on the Town Records until the formation of the Second Parish. After that time, 1730-31, they were recorded in the Records of the First Parish; but for the past twenty years or more the town has made appropriations to keep this and

the other cemeteries in town in repair, and has taken the whole care thereof.

In September, 1881, after Brookdale Cemetery had been laid out, the Board of Health, under the General Statutes, upon the application of the Cemetery Commissioners, passed the following regulation:—

“No interments hereafter shall be made within the limits of the Old Parish Burial Ground, or of the grounds added thereto, and enclosed therewith, outside the boundary lines of lots, the legal title to which is held by individuals, or which are now enclosed or marked by bounds and reserved for the exclusive use of families for burial purposes.”

This regulation was made because portions of this cemetery were so over-crowded, and also on account of the impossibility of providing for the burial of persons outside of lots enclosed or reserved in some way for the use of families, and for the further reason that in Brookdale Cemetery ample provision had been made for all the needs of the town.

The number of persons buried in this old burial-ground is unknown. Here rest the bones of the founders of this town, and of the men in the generations following.—citizens of the town who have been distinguished for their acts of charity and devotion to their fellow-men, and for love of and labors for the town and for the whole country, a record of whose deeds would fill volumes.

Over the Dwight tomb in the cemetery there had been for many years a stone bearing this inscription:—

Here lyes Intombd the Body of  
TIMOTHY DWIGHT, Esq<sup>r</sup> who  
Departed this Life Jan<sup>r</sup> the 31.  
Anno Domini 1718.  
Aged 88 years.

This stone, as the inscription indicates, marks the last resting-place of Timothy Dwight, who, when a lad of but

five years of age, came to Dedham with his father, John Dwight, among the first settlers, in 1636. Both father and son were conspicuous and honored men in their day, and their descendants have been in every succeeding generation prominent in public affairs and especially identified with the educational institutions of the country.

In the judgment of some of the officers of the Dedham Historical Society it seemed desirable that the fact of the direct descent of this distinguished family from the first settlers of Dedham should be inscribed on this memorial stone; and in compliance with their request the following appropriate and felicitous inscription, prepared by a member of the family, was cut thereon: —

The Ancestor  
Of the DWIGHT family in America :  
A family like himself,  
Truly serious and godly  
Of an excellent spirit ;  
Faithful and upright ;  
Among men of renown  
In Church and State,  
In Halls of Learning  
And in War.

The line of descent from John Dwight to Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, now President of Yale University, is as follows: —

1. John Dwight, the settler, of Dedham, Mass.
2. Capt. Timothy Dwight, of Dedham, Mass.
3. Justice Nathaniel Dwight, of Northampton, Mass.
4. Col. Timothy Dwight, of Northampton, Mass.
5. Maj. Timothy Dwight, of Northampton, Mass.
6. President Timothy Dwight, of New Haven, Conn.
7. James Dwight, of New Haven, Conn.
8. President Timothy Dwight, of New Haven, Conn.

In the wall at the left of the main gate at the entrance of the cemetery from Village Avenue, and in front of the ancient grounds, the Committee have caused to be placed a neat block of Dedham stone unhammered, in which has been inserted a bronze tablet with the following inscription: —

THE BURIAL PLACE.  
THIS PORTION SET APART IN 1636.  
ENLARGED IN 1638. IT WAS  
THE ONLY BURIAL PLACE FOR  
NEARLY A CENTURY. HERE  
WERE BURIED ALLIN ADAMS  
BELCHER DEXTER AND HAVEN  
MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH  
AND ALLEYNE LUSHER DWIGHT  
AND FISHER WITH OTHER  
FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN.

#### THE TRAINING-FIELD.

Several years before the settlement of Dedham, in the very infancy of the Colony, the General Court passed an order "that every Captaine shall traine his Compaine on Saterday in everie weeke;" and from time to time thereafter other similar laws were made requiring the settlers to become familiar with military practice and discipline, and but few were excused from this duty; and so frequently were the men called upon to "trayne" that the proprietors of towns set apart grounds therefor.

The land set apart in Dedham for that purpose included what is now known as the Great Common at the upper village. Although the exact date when this lot was first used as a training-ground cannot be determined from the

record, yet as the law no less than the necessities of the situation required them to train, it seems reasonable to infer that it was at the very beginning of the settlement, and that the place first designated continued to be used; for the records show that in 1637 there was a "trayned band organized with Clerk and other officers." In 1644 a grant was made to the military company of "two acres more as it lyeth on the westerly end of the trayning ground;" and in 1648 a confirmatory grant was made to the company, its officers and successors, of the free use of all that parcel of land commonly called the training-ground; and this grant provided that the same could not be sold except by the consent of the company and the selectmen. In 1677 a portion was sold off, and in 1687 the town being short of funds proposed to sell the training-ground; but no one seemed disposed to pay the price fixed. From 1773 to 1836 a part of the grounds was used for the almshouse, and in the latter year the house and a portion of the land were sold by order of the town. Since that time the remainder has been improved as a common.

There is much cause to regret that the town should have suffered a street to be laid out directly through this lot, thus dividing it into two small lots, instead of allowing the same to remain as one entire common; but so it is that the people of one generation seem to have widely different tastes and views from those of another generation. There are but few landmarks left so intimately connected with the early settlement of an ancient town, and so suggestive of the trials and dangers which the first settlers endured, as the old training-field.

That coming generations may not forget the location of the training-ground, nor the dangers and hardships endured and overcome by the founders of this town even from the very beginning, and as a simple memorial thereof, the Committee have erected upon the east cor-

ner of the field, at the junction of High Street and Common Street, a plain block of Dedham stone, bearing the simple inscription, —

THE  
TRAINING FIELD  
IN  
1636

THE FIRST DAM AND MILL.

The first public enterprise of vital importance to the original settlers of Dedham was to provide for a corn-mill. Abraham Shaw, one of the original proprietors, undertook the work; and for his aid and encouragement the town as early as Feb. 21, 1636-7, passed the following order: —

“Whereas Abraham Shawe is Resolved to erect a Cornemill in our towne of Dedham, we doe grante vnto him free liberty soe to doe. And for that purpose we have nowe assigned Edward Alleyn, Samuells Morse, Ezechiell Holliman, Thomas Bartlet & Nicholas Phillips, or any 4 or 3. of them to accompany him & his workmen to find out a convenient place: And viewe what fitting (timber) is about y<sup>t</sup> place soe found for y<sup>t</sup> purpose: As also to order every thing concerning y<sup>e</sup> perfecting of y<sup>e</sup> same.”

We have only to call to mind that the new settlement was a considerable distance from the older ones, without roads thereto; that the people had their own houses to build, their lands to prepare for cultivation, with the countless other difficulties necessarily incident to such a settlement, — to understand that the erection of a corn-mill was no small undertaking, even with all the encouragement the town could give. A month later, March 23, 1636-37, the following vote was passed: —

“Whereas ther hath ben made some proposition by Abraham Shawe for y<sup>e</sup> erecting of a Corne Mill in our Towne We doe nowe graunte vnto y<sup>e</sup> sayd Abraham Sixty Acres of land to belong vnto y<sup>e</sup> sayd Mill soe erected provided allwayes y<sup>t</sup> the same be a Water Mill, els not. We order also y<sup>t</sup> every man y<sup>t</sup> hath lott w<sup>th</sup> vs, shall assist to brenge the Milstones, from Watertowne Mill by land vnto y<sup>e</sup> boateing place neer M<sup>r</sup> Haynes his farme. It is alsoe further graunted vnto y<sup>e</sup> sayd Abraham y<sup>t</sup> the sayd grownd & mill soe to be builte shal be at his owne disposing in case of sale or other alienation at his pleasure. Saveing y<sup>t</sup> our Towne shall have y<sup>e</sup> first Refusall of it, at such a price as an other man wold Realy give for any such alienation accordingly.”

Before Abraham Shaw had accomplished his work he died; but considerable progress had been made, and a plan devised by which the mill could be run by water. It was a bold enterprise; but boldness of enterprise was one of the leading virtues of the early settlers. They undertook a work which would be considered almost impossible now, and that was literally to create a water-power by the following vote passed March 25, 1639, only ten years after the settlement at Boston of Governor Winthrop and his company: —

“Ordered y<sup>t</sup> a Ditch shal be made at a Com'on Charge through purchased medowe unto y<sup>e</sup> East brooke, y<sup>t</sup> may both be a partition fence in y<sup>e</sup> same: as also may serve for a Course unto a water mill: yf it shalbe fownd fitting to set a mill upon y<sup>e</sup> sayd brooke by y<sup>e</sup> Judgement of a workeman for y<sup>t</sup> purpose.”

This is the origin of Mother Brook, or Mill Creek as it is sometimes called; and the result accomplished thereby



was to turn a portion of the water of Charles River into Neponset River, down a fall sufficient to accommodate several large mill privileges.

On the same day the above vote was passed, the proprietors made the following proposition to any one who would undertake to complete the work which Shaw had begun: —

“Ordered y<sup>t</sup> yf any man or men will undertake  
& erect a water Cornemill shall have given unto  
him soe much grownd as was formerly  
granted unto Abraham Shawe for y<sup>t</sup> same  
end & purpose with such other benefitts and priv-  
elidges as he shold have had in all Respects  
accordingly. Provided y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> sayd Mill doth  
grinde Corne before y<sup>e</sup> first of y<sup>e</sup> tenth month  
as it is Intended.”

In order, then, for any one to avail himself of this offer it was necessary to have the mill constructed by Dec. 10, 1639.

The person to avail himself of this offer was John Elderkin. The exact date of the completion of the dam and mill is unknown, but it was certainly before July 14, 1641; for on that day a committee of three, consisting of Francis Chickering, John Dwight, and Jonathan Fairbanks, was appointed to “search out, appoint, determine, and lay out a cart-way to our water-mill for a common leading way, where they shall by their discretion judge most convenient for the town.”

A grant was made to Elderkin of eight acres on the south side of the mill-pond, jointly with Nathaniel Whiting, for a house-lot. At the same time twenty acres more of upland and ten acres of meadow were laid out to him. There is no date of this grant, but the next entry on the same page of the record is the sale by Elderkin to Nathaniel Whiting of half of the mill: —

“ John Elderkin alienateth & selleth to Nathaniell Whiteing & his assignes forever his part in the land granted for a house Lot to the mill with the house and buildings thereon & the part of the Dams & ditchings belonging to halfe the Mill as appeares by a deed dated the 22 of the 9 month 1642.”

The next entry in the record is the sale of the other half as follows: —

“ John Elderkin allienateth and selleth to Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup> Allin pastor & Nathan Aldus and John Dwight and to their assignes for ever all his rights & interest in the Water Mill standing upon the East Brooke in Dedham w<sup>th</sup> the Mill house dams & workes thereunto belonging viz : the one halfe of the sd premises And Twenty acres of upland yet to be layd out and Ten acres of Meadow not yet layd out all which sd premises are alienated as followeth : viz : the one halfe to M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Allin one fourth part to Nathan Aldus the other fourth part to John Dwight.”

This sale was made also in 1642, as appears by a reference in the deed from these grantees to Nathaniel Whiting.

John Elderkin, according to Savage, soon after left Dedham, and after residing in Reading and Providence he removed in 1648 to New London, Conn., where he built the church and the first mill, and from thence in 1664 to Norwich, where he also built the first church and mill.

By deed dated “ 29<sup>th</sup> 7 Mo. 1649,” and recorded in the Suffolk Registry of Deeds, Lib. 4, fol. 285, Nathaniel Whiting acquired from John Allin Pastor, Nathan Aldus, and John Dwight all the rights to the mill which they purchased of Elderkin; and Whiting thus became the sole owner.

The town took pains to see that the mill was worked so as to accommodate the people, for in 1650 the following entry appears on the records: —

“Several complaints being made of the insufficient p'formance of the worke of y<sup>e</sup> Mille Nathaniell Whiteing the Miller being present & tendering a refference to issue the grievances by twoo men to be chosen by the Towne ; and twoo by himselfe. The Towne accepting thereof make choice as followeth :

Eleazer Lusher	} chosen by y <sup>e</sup> Towne	John Kingsbery	} chosen by Nath. Whiteing.”
Nathaniell Coalburne		Geo. Barber	

Upon the death of Nathaniel Whiting, under his will, proved in 1683, the mill passed to his wife Hannah ; and under her will, proved in 1714, to their son Samuel ; and under the will of Samuel, proved in 1728, to his son Zachariah Whiting, who in 1732 conveyed it to Nathaniel Whiting his cousin (son of Timothy and grandson of the original Nathaniel). Nathaniel in 1756 conveyed it to his son Joseph Whiting, who in 1804 conveyed the same to his son Hezekiah. In the partition of Hezekiah Whiting's estate in 1821 this mill privilege was set off to his three sons, Joseph, Hezekiah, and Charles, and in 1823 Joseph Whiting and the guardian of Hezekiah and Charles, then minors, conveyed the same to Jabez Chickering ; and here it leaves the Whiting family, in which for so many years it had remained. Chickering the same year conveyed to the Dedham Worsted Factory, which the following year conveyed to Benjamin Bussey, and in 1843 the executors of Bussey's will conveyed the same to John Wiley Edmands, and in 1863 Edmands and Colby conveyed this privilege to the Merchants' Woollen Company, the present owners.

At this privilege now stands the large brick mill on Bussey Street, the largest in the town. At the time the

Merchants' Woollen Company purchased the privilege, the dam was nearly under the bridge on Bussey Street, across the brook, but below the site of the original dam; for as dams are renewed, or rebuilt, it has generally been the custom, when it can be done, to build each new dam a little below the old one, so that the position of the dam has been several times slightly changed; and in 1874, at the time of the change in the line of Bussey Street, the present dam was placed a few rods below the old dam, and the bridge carried a short distance up stream. All evidence upon the land of the site of the original dam has disappeared; but, fortunately, at the time these recent changes were made the foundation of the original dam was discovered. It extended across the brook from near the west end of the south abutment of the present bridge to a point a short distance west of the west end of its north abutment.

In order to mark permanently this very interesting historic spot, the Committee have, with the consent and hearty co-operation of the Merchants' Woollen Company, erected upon the company's land on the east side of Bussey Street, near the south bank of the brook, a stone, upon which the following inscription has been cut: —

NEAR THIS SPOT  
THE FIRST  
DAM AND MILL  
WERE BUILT  
IN  
1640.

“THE PILLAR OF LIBERTY.”

It was ascertained, upon careful inquiry, by a tradition resting upon the concurrent statements of several persons of known accuracy and reliability not now living, whose memory extended back into the last century, that

the Pillar of Liberty was first placed on the corner of the Meeting-House Common, at the junction of High and Court streets. It is not known when and by whom it was removed across Court Street, but it is reasonable to infer that it was done in 1828, as the inscription upon the northerly face contains the recital, "Replaced by the Citizens, July 4, 1828." For this reason the Committee, with the assent of the Parish Committee of the Unitarian Church, determined to remove the stone to this spot.

The stone itself, though differing in color and character from our Dedham ledge-stone, was no doubt originally obtained somewhere between Dedham Village and West Dedham, as similar stone can now be found there. Both faces bearing the original inscriptions were probably hammered and smoothed in 1766, although they now present uneven surfaces. But on the easterly face there were obvious tool-marks, showing that an attempt at some time had been made to sink a panel, which perhaps was abandoned by reason of the hardness of the stone. The Committee decided not to touch the sides bearing the inscriptions, except to bring out the letters by painting them. It would have been practically impossible to recut the letters without sacrificing their form, which was peculiar to Colonial times; the hardness of the stone would prevent any successful result from such an attempt. At the celebration of 1836 the letters were made legible by renewing them with black paint, which will explain the allusion in Mr. Haven's address;<sup>1</sup> but this was washed out by the storms of a quarter of a century. The Committee are assured that the brown paint now used will last much longer; it was obtained from Concord, where it has been used for a similar purpose. Following the suggestion of a panel on the easterly face, a bronze tablet has been inserted, bearing the inscription hereafter given. The stone has been set upon

<sup>1</sup> Haven's Centennial Address, 1836, p. 43.

a deep foundation and surrounded by a curb of blue stone firmly bedded.

The story of this monumental stone is interesting and instructive, and can be told with historic certainty. It is the memorial of so brief a period in the years just preceding the American Revolution, that it is easy to miss its full significance. The Stamp Act, the first of the oppressive parliamentary measures, was passed March 22, 1765. The news of its passage fired the hearts of the people of Boston and the surrounding towns with intense indignation. It was the subject of frequent town-meetings. The Stamp Commissioner was forced to resign, and a mob sacked the house of Lieutenant-Governor Hutchinson. The act was to take effect Nov. 1, 1765. That day in Boston was ushered in by the tolling of bells and the display at half-mast of the flags of the vessels in port; the English ministers were hung in effigy; business was practically suspended; the courts were compelled to proceed without stamped paper as the act required, because none was permitted to be sold; and all the officers of the Province were obliged to disregard the requirements of the act.

Meantime the friends of America in the English Parliament had been constantly laboring for the repeal of the Stamp Act. Foremost among these was William Pitt, afterward the Earl of Chatham. It was he who maintained that "America being neither really nor virtually represented in Westminster, cannot be held legally or constitutionally or reasonably subject to obedience to any money bill of the kingdom." The Stamp Act was repealed March 18, 1766, and the news was received in Boston on the 16th of the following May. The repeal was hailed with the greatest demonstrations of joy. A day (May 19) was set apart for general rejoicing, in which the booming of cannon, the ringing of bells, the decoration of houses and steeples with flags and streamers, and the release of

prisoners confined for debt, testified the popular feeling. In the evening there was an illumination of the houses, and a display of fireworks on the Common, excelling anything of the kind before seen in New England. A wooden obelisk was erected under the Liberty Tree, on the four sides of which were allegorical representations designed and executed by Paul Revere. This unfortunately took fire from the lanterns upon it the same night, and was consumed.

In all these stirring events the towns around Boston were in full sympathy. In Dedham, the Sons of Liberty prepared to mark the event by a permanent memorial. Dr. Nathaniel Ames, the younger, was an ardent patriot and a leader. He records in his diary that May 21, five days after the news of the repeal arrived, the stone-cutter was at work on the Pillar of Liberty. From entries in the same diary it appears that for eleven or twelve days in May, June, and July stone-cutters were thus employed. On June 30 he records, "Daniel Gookin turns the Pillar of Liberty." This was a wooden column about ten or twelve feet high, which rested upon the stone as a pedestal. On the 14th of July the Sons of Liberty voted to raise the Pillar on July 22. It was raised on that day, in the words of Dr. Ames, "in the presence of a vast concourse of people." The Pillar was painted on the 28th of the same month.

Before the Pillar was raised an effort was made to surmount it with a bust of William Pitt, as appears by the following entry in Dr. Ames's diary of 1766:—

"July 2. Went to Boston. Bespoke Pitt's Head for Pillar of Liberty."

But the bust was not procured upon this request. For another entry in the same year is as follows:—

"Dec. 15. Sons of Liberty met. Agree to have Pitt's Head."

Dr. Ames writes Feb. 15, 1767, that he "went to Boston with Mr. Haven and Battle. Spoke Pitt's bust of Mr. Skilling."

This Mr. Skilling was a well-known wood-carver of that day, who executed similar busts and figures to adorn the entrances of some fine houses in Boston. Finally, February 26, Dr. Ames again went to Boston, and "brought the bust of Pitt for the Pillar of Liberty."

The original inscriptions in Latin and English were undoubtedly composed by Dr. Ames. He was accustomed to make entries in Latin in his diary, and the style of the English is characteristic. He writes: "Aug. 6. Howard altered *erepsit* into *evulsit*," traces of which alteration are now discernible.

It strikes one strangely, perhaps, to find on this stone, erected by the Sons of Liberty, an expression of satisfaction that their loyalty to King George III. had been confirmed by the repeal of the Stamp Act. But it must not be forgotten that it was then ten years before the Declaration of Independence, and if any entertained the thought of independence as a contingency which might occur, certainly no one avowed it. The patriots fondly indulged the hope, rather, that in the repeal of the Stamp Act all their trials were ended, and that the oppressive policy of the British ministers toward America had been reversed. But their joy was short-lived, and by the passage of the act imposing a duty upon tea and other articles passed in June, 1767, the series of measures was continued which brought on the Revolution.

As the conflict approached, the Pillar of Liberty naturally ceased to be an object of interest. Dr. Ames records, "May 11, 1769. The Pillar of Liberty was overthrown last night." Perhaps this was due to the revulsion in popular feeling. It is not certain that it was afterward replaced. But there were those living not many years



since who remembered in the last decade of the eighteenth century both pillar and bust lying upon the ground, and the latter being kicked about by the boys of that period. It is certain that no one took pains to preserve them, and they are now irrecoverably lost.

We may, however, now feel assured that this historic stone which stands to-day as the memorial of ante-Revolutionary times is so securely placed that on the ter-centenary of the incorporation of Dedham it will still remain in good preservation to testify to the patriotism of 1766, and to its grateful appreciation in 1886.

The following are the inscriptions now upon the stone, given in the chronological order of their being placed upon it:—

THE Pillar of LIBERTY  
 Erect'd by the Sons of Liberty  
 in this Vicinity  
 LAUS DEO REGI, et Immunitat<sup>m</sup>  
 autoribusq. maxime Patrono  
 PITT, qui Rempub. n. r. fume vulsit.  
 Fauscibus Orci

INSCRIPTION OF 1766  
 [WESTERLY FACE.]

**The Pillar of LIBERTY**  
**To the Honor of WILL<sup>M</sup> PITT Esq<sup>R</sup>**  
**& other PATRIOTS who saved**  
**AMERICA from impending Slave**  
**ry, & confirm'd our most loyal**  
**Affection to K<sup>G</sup> GEORGE III by pro**  
**curing a Repeal of the Stamp Act,**  
**18<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 1766.**

INSCRIPTION OF 1766  
 [NORTHERLY FACE.]

**Erected here July 22, 1766,**  
**by Doct<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Ames 2<sup>d</sup>,**  
**Col. Eben<sup>r</sup> Battle, Maj Abijah**  
**Draper & other Patriots friendly**  
**to the Rights of the Colonies at**  
**that day**  
**Replaced by the Citizens**  
**July 4. 1828.**

INSCRIPTION OF 1828  
 [NORTHERLY FACE.]

THIS STONE WAS FIRST  
PLACED NEAR THIS SPOT  
JULY 22, 1766. IT SUPPOR-  
TED A WOODEN COLUMN  
SURMOUNTED BY A BUST  
OF WILLIAM PITT.

BOTH COLUMN AND BUST  
DISAPPEARED ABOUT THE  
CLOSE OF THE LAST CEN-  
TURY. THE STONE WAS  
REMOVED FROM THE OP-  
POSITE CORNER IN 1886.

INSCRIPTION ON TABLET OF 1886  
[EASTERLY FACE.]

#### THE POWDER HOUSE.

The Powder House upon examination was found to be in a state of partial dilapidation, though its walls and curved oaken rafters were in a sound condition. In repairing and restoring it, the original design has been adhered to as closely as possible. The shingles have been replaced by new ones of the best quality, painted on both sides and laid when dry; a new solid door, having strap hinges and a padlock, has been put in; the oak threshold has been replaced; all the wood exposed to the weather has been painted; the brick walls have been pointed anew where practicable, and well oiled; a bronze tablet has been inserted in the front wall bearing the following inscription:

THE POWDER HOUSE  
BUILT BY THE TOWN  
1766.

The Powder House, as the quaint little brick structure which crowns the great rock near Charles River has been called since its erection in 1766, is better known to the people of Dedham than any other spot within her borders. It is not the "stern round tower of other days" from which bards in classic lands have drawn inspiration; neither has it been the scene of any great historic event. It is a plain building, erected by plain people, for a practical purpose, but little more than a hundred years ago; yet so thoroughly is it identified with the social life of this community that it has come to be regarded as almost a sacred spot, dear not only to the present dwellers in the village, but to the sons and daughters of Dedham now scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The Powder House was not built, as many have supposed, with any reference to its use during the Revolutionary War, though doubtless it well answered the purpose of keeping the Provincial powder dry in those days when ammunition was well-nigh worth its weight in gold. But in 1766 there was no expectation of independence of the mother country, and but little desire for separation expressed on the part of the Colonists. The public sentiment that produced the violent disruption of the ties that had so long existed between Great Britain and her American Colonies was the quick growth of the following years. It, too, may well be doubted whether the natural beauty of the location entered at all into the calculations of the builders. The Powder House was constructed in those days when everything was sacrificed to convenience and utility, in compliance with a long-felt desire that the public ammunition should be stored in some public place, and not subjected to the risk and inconvenience of being kept on private premises.

But a few years after the settlement of the town, in making provision for the common defence the storage of the

town's ammunition became a question of much importance. The first mention of the matter which we find in the Town Records is contained in the following entry:—

“3 of 11 mo. 1652.

“At a general meeting of the Towne the Selectmen are desired to issue the case concerning the barrell of powder delivered to Ensign Phillips.”

The next entry on the subject is as follows:—

“Assemb. 28, 12 Mt. 1661.

“Timothy Dwight is requested to procure a barrill of Powder to Exchange that barrel that nowe is in the Town Store; & what it doe a mount to more than the ould powder is really wourth to him, the Towne is to make good to him.”

Nearly a century later we find the following entries on the Town Records:—

“May 15, 1745.

“Voted, if it be the mind of the Town to choose a Committee to procure a Stock of Ammunition by Calling in what is lent out and procuring what is wanting.

“Voted in ye affirmative.

“Mr. Isaac Bullard, Mr. Samuel Richards, Maj. Eliphalet Pond, Committee.”

“Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> 1746-7.

“The Committee chosen to procure a stock of Ammunition for ye Town make return. That they have laid out one hundred and twenty five pounds old Tenor and have Procured two barrells of Powder and Six Duzon of Flints & about one hundred and a quarter of Bullets.”

The following entries in the Town Records afford the only information we possess as to who was the custodian of this important item of town property:—

“May 27, 1755.

“Paid to Mr. Isaac Bullard for his care and labor about the Town Stock of Powder, 6 shillings.

“May 22, 1759. To Isaac Bullard for Taking Care of the Powder, 5s. 4d.”

The first vote on the subject of building a house for the storage of ammunition which we find on the Town Records is as follows:—

“March 1st, 1762.

“It was put to the Town to see if the Town will build a Powder house. Voted in the affirmative, and then the Town voted to refer the further consideration of said powder house to next May meeting.”

At the May meeting it was voted upon, as the following extract from the Record will show:—

“May 18, 1762.

“Voted to have the Powder house builded on a great Rock in Aaron Fuller's land near Charles River. Also The Town made Choice of Capt. Eliphalet Fales, Mr. Daniel Gay, & Mr. Ebenr Kingberry a Committee to Build Said House.”

It is evident that this committee took no action in the matter intrusted to them, as in the warrant for the May meeting in 1764 appears the following article:—

“Sixthly, To Know the Mind of the Inhabitants, where the Town's Stock of Powder &c. Shall be lodged.”

At the town-meeting it was “Voted to refer the Sixth article in the Warrant respecting the Town's Stock of Powder &c. to next March Meeting.”

But it was not until the next May meeting that the town voted on the question, as will be seen by the following record:—

“May 20, 1765.

“The town having at their meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1762, voted to build a Powder House on a Great Rock in Aaron Fuller's Land near Charles River and appointed a Committee for that purpose, and said Committee not having complied with the Request of the Town respecting that Business, the Town did at this Meeting Vote to join Two more Persons to said Committee, and did direct them to get Said House erected — To be Eight

Feet Square on the outside and Six Feet high under the Plates, the Materials to be Brick and Lime Mortar. Then Deacon Nathaniel Kingsbury and Capt. David Fuller were chose for the other Two Committee Men."

But the work proceeded slowly, as the first evidence of any action taken on the part of the committee is found in the following entry in the town books:—

"Nov. 12, 1765.

"To Capt. David Fuller, three pounds four shillings to purchase materials for building a Powder House."

Although the Town Records afford no direct evidence as to the beginning of the erection of the Powder House, the recently discovered diary of Dr. Nathaniel Ames, the younger, contains the following entry, it being the only allusion to the matter which can be found in its ample pages:—

"June 7<sup>th</sup> 1766. Powder House begun in Dedham."

From this record of Dr. Ames, and the fact that the builders began to receive pay for their work early in 1767, we infer that the building was begun and finished in 1766.

In the town treasurer's books we find the following entries:—

"March 2, 1767.

"To Ebenezer Kingsbury for Timber & Boards & Carting Bricks for the Powder House, £1. 14s. 8d."

"March 20, 1767.

"To Ebenezer Shepard, one pound, Eighteen Shillings & four pence three farthings, for Work done on the Powder House."

"April 6, 1767.

"To Capt. David Fuller, Three pounds, Eight Shillings Eleven Pence & three Farthings in part of acct. for Materials & work for the Powder House and Boarding the Workmen."

"May 28, 1767.

"To Capt. David Fuller, Two pounds and three pence three farthings in full for Materials and Work for the Powder House & Boarding Workmen."

The last entry concerning the erection and use of the Powder House in the town books is the following: —

"Feb. 26, 1768.

"To Capt. David Fuller, one Shilling and Two Pence half-penny for removing the powder &c. to the Powder House Last Spring."

This order, which was drawn Nov. 16, 1767, taken in connection with the entries before quoted, proves conclusively that the Powder House was erected in 1766, and was first used in the spring of 1767.

In these days of costly public and private buildings it is an interesting fact to know that the total expense involved in the construction of this historic edifice amounted to £12. 6s. 4d. 1f., from which it may be safely inferred that neither architect nor contractor had any part in its erection. Only once since its erection has the old house been threatened with destruction. In 1859, the building being sadly out of repair, an attempt was made to secure its removal by the town; but the opposition to this measure was so strong that it resulted in the insertion of the following articles in the warrant for the April town-meeting: —

"8<sup>th</sup> To see if the town will appropriate a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, to repair and preserve the Powder House, on Powder House Rock.

"9<sup>th</sup> To see if the town will sell or otherwise dispose of the Powder House, on Powder House Rock."

At this meeting, the town having refused to expend any money in repairs, Article 9 in the warrant was dismissed, with the understanding that the necessary work involved in repairing the house would be done by private subscrip-



tion, which in the course of a few weeks was satisfactorily accomplished.

This picturesque relic of Colonial times, with more than a century of sacred associations clustering thickly about it, and overlooking one of the loveliest of landscapes, is warmly commended to the watchful and fostering care of those who in the years to come shall fill our places and improve upon our work.

ERASTUS WORTHINGTON,  
HENRY O. HILDRETH,  
DON GLEASON HILL,

*Committee.*

DEDHAM, Sept. 21, 1886.



## HISTORIC HOUSES AND PLACES

DESIGNATED BY TEMPORARY INSCRIPTIONS, SEPT. 21, 1886.

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### THE AVERY OAK.

THIS ancient white-oak tree is doubtless older than the settlement of the town. It is still a vigorous tree, and it was chosen as an emblem of the age and vigor of the town, to be placed upon its corporate seal. It stands on East Street, in front of the site of the Avery House, one of the oldest houses of the town, which was taken down in 1885. An offer of seventy dollars was made for its timber in building the old frigate "Constitution." This tree was given by Mr. Joseph W. Clark to the Dedham Historical Society, by a deed of conveyance, June 29, 1886, with the purpose and on the condition that it be carefully preserved in the years to come.

### THE FAIRBANKS HOUSE.

This picturesque old house with its antique furniture is an object of great interest to its many visitors. The date of its erection is not known from any historic record. For many reasons, however, which might be adduced, it is believed not to have been one of the rude houses of the first settlers; for all these disappeared in the first cen-

ture. This house probably was not built earlier than 1664, though it may have been built before Philip's War. The land, however, on which it stands, from the time of its allotment to Jonathan Fairbanks in 1637, has remained in the hands of his descendants. Jonathan Fairbanks the progenitor died Dec. 5, 1668.

Mr. Fairbanks came to Boston in 1633 from Sowerby, in Yorkshire, England. He was admitted and subscribed to the Covenant, March 23, 1637. Through John, Joseph, Ebenezer, Ebenezer 2d, and his three daughters — Prudence, Sally, and Nancy — the house has come into the possession of its present owner and occupant, Miss Rebecca Fairbanks, who is of the seventh generation in direct descent from Jonathan.

The small wing with a gambrel-roof on the side toward East Street was added to the house when Ebenezer Fairbanks, born Jan. 5, 1758, and married March 3, 1777, became of age, or at the time of his marriage. Though additions have from time to time been made to the house, the main structure is perhaps the same that Jonathan Fairbanks, the first of the name in Dedham, built for the use of his family.

#### HOUSES OF THE MINISTERS OF THE DEDHAM CHURCHES.

Tradition assigns to a spot near the present Orthodox Congregational Church the site of the house of John Allin, the revered first minister of the church; and that Mr. Adams afterwards occupied the same house is a well-known fact. The house built by Rev. Mr. Belcher, the third minister of Dedham, and afterwards occupied successively by Dexter and Haven, the fourth and fifth ministers, and in which they all died, stood near the site of the church; it was taken down about the time

the new church was built in 1819. It is an interesting fact that we are thus able to identify, with a reasonable degree of certainty, the dwelling-places of the first five ministers of the Dedham Church, covering a period of more than one hundred and sixty years.

#### THE HOUSE OF TIMOTHY DWIGHT, THE ANCESTOR OF THE DWIGHT FAMILY IN AMERICA.

This house stood on the east side of East Street, a few feet northwest of the northerly abutment of the railroad bridge, on land granted by the proprietors in the first allotments made to John Dwight, the father of the first Timothy, who erected the house. Both father and son were for many years prominent in Dedham affairs. Timothy Dwight died in 1718, at the age of eighty-eight.

In 1664 a valuation of the houses in town was recorded, in which the house of Timothy Dwight appeared by far the most valuable in the town at that time. The house was taken down about 1849, when the West Roxbury Branch of the Boston and Providence Railroad was built. It was once owned and occupied as a place of business by Benjamin Bussey.

#### THE DEXTER HOUSE.

This fine mansion was built about the year 1765 by Samuel Dexter. He was the son of Rev. Samuel Dexter, fourth minister of the Dedham Church, and was born in Dedham in 1726. He entered mercantile life at an early age, and having acquired considerable property came Nov. 4, 1762, to reside in his native town, where for many years he exercised great influence, and held many important offices in the church and the town. Mr. Dexter was a representative in the General Court for several years,

was five years a delegate to the Provincial Congress, was a member of the Supreme Executive Council of the State, and was active in directing military operations at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. He was deeply interested in the cause of education, and was a frequent benefactor of the schools of Dedham, and in recognition of the service which he had rendered, his name was given to the school at the Upper Village. On the death of his wife in 1784 he removed to Mendon, where he died June 10, 1810, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. In his will he bequeathed five thousand dollars to found the Dexter Professorship in Harvard College.

Mr. Dexter was the father of Samuel Dexter, the third of the name, and the distinguished lawyer and statesman, who was born during his father's residence in Boston, but who came to Dedham when but a year old, where he remained during his boyhood and until his entrance to Harvard College in 1777, from which institution he was graduated in 1781. Until his sudden death in 1816 he was one of the most distinguished men in public life, having been a Senator and Representative in Congress, Secretary of War and Secretary of the Treasury during the administration of the elder Adams.

After the removal of Samuel Dexter, 2d, from Dedham in 1784, the house was successively occupied by Dr. John Sprague, Samuel Swett, and others, and for several years past has been owned and occupied by the family of the late Dr. Ebenezer G. Burgess.

#### HOUSE OF DR. NATHANIEL AMES.

This house was built in 1772 by Dr. Nathaniel Ames, 2d, and was occupied by him until his death, July 21, 1822, at the age of eighty-one years. It is now owned and occupied by Dr. J. P. Maynard. Dr. Ames was the elder

brother of Fisher Ames, of whom he was in politics a violent opponent. He was first clerk of the courts of Norfolk County, and a physician in large practice. Dr. Ames was a son of Dr. Nathaniel Ames, known as the almanac maker, who removed from Bridgewater to Dedham in 1732, and published almanacs from 1726 to 1765. His son, Dr. Nathaniel Ames, 2d, continued the same some ten years afterward. He was a brother of Fisher Ames, and brother-in-law of Jeremiah Shuttleworth, the first postmaster, having married Meletiah Shuttleworth. By his will his estate passed to his niece, Hannah Shuttleworth, and by her will many interesting documents pass to the Dedham Historical Society, including a diary kept by Dr. Ames from the time he was in college, 1758, to the time of his death in 1822.

#### HOUSE OF FISHER AMES.

This house, now owned by Mr. F. J. Stimson, has been so enlarged and reconstructed that it bears no resemblance to the mansion completed by Fisher Ames in 1795. Still, the frame of that house is in the main portion of the present structure, and the form of the drawing-rooms remains. The Ames mansion was a square house, having a hip roof with a balustrade. It had capacious outbuildings, and a carriage-house with a high-arched doorway. Here Fisher Ames lived until his death, July 4, 1808. His widow and family continued to live in it for many years; but after the death of John Worthington Ames, the eldest son, in 1833, several of the children having died previously, Mrs. Ames went to reside with her son, the late Judge Seth Ames, then a practising lawyer in Lowell. The house was afterward owned and occupied for a short time by Gen. William Gibbs McNeill, who was the chief engineer in the construction of the Boston and Providence Railroad.

It was next owned and occupied by Elisha Turner, but after his death it was sold to John Gardner, who occupied it for many years, and in his hands the estate underwent many changes, the houses on both sides having been built by him. Finally, in 1868 it came into the hands of Edward Stimson, who so remodelled, enlarged, and enriched the house by costly improvements as completely to transform its appearance.

#### THE HAVEN HOUSE.

Samuel Haven, who in 1795 built the stately mansion now owned by Mr. John R. Bullard, was born in Dedham, April 3, 1771. He was the son of Rev. Jason and Catherine Haven, was graduated at Harvard College in 1789, and studied law with Fisher Ames, of Dedham, and with his cousin, Samuel Dexter, in Boston. On the formation of Norfolk County in 1793, he was appointed Register of Probate. In 1802 he was commissioned as a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and in 1804 was appointed Chief Justice, which office he held until 1811, when the court was abolished. Mr. Haven continued in the office of Register of Probate until 1833, a period of forty years, but retired almost wholly from legal practice when he resigned, and not long after removed to Roxbury, where he continued to reside with his daughter until his death, which occurred Sept. 4, 1847, at the age of seventy-six years. Judge Haven's intellectual tastes were for theology rather than law; but the chief occupations of practical interest to him were horticulture and architecture. He spent much time and money in the construction of his house, and the laying out and embellishment of the grounds, making it one of the most beautiful estates in Norfolk County. The venerable and beautiful English elms standing in front of the house were set out by Judge Haven in 1789, the year in



which he was graduated from college. In 1844 he sold the house to the late Freeman Fisher, who occupied it until 1854, when it passed into the possession of the late John Bullard, and thence into the hands of the present owner, who has done much still further to beautify and adorn it.

#### THE DOWSE HOUSE.

This beautiful estate, now owned and occupied by Dr. Henry P. Quincy, was probably built very early in the present century by Edward Dowse, who was born in Charlestown in 1756, and who during his early life was engaged in commerce in China and the East Indies. He married Sarah, daughter of Hon. William Phillips, of Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Dowse left Boston at the time of the yellow fever in 1797, and went for a few weeks' residence to the old house on the Sprague Farm at Dedham Low Plain. The owner having occasion to use the house, Mr. Dowse came to the village, and purchasing land on both sides of High Street, built this house,—living, until it was ready for occupancy, in a smaller one standing near the present front gate, and which was afterward removed to the upper village. These narrow quarters did not limit the hospitality in which he delighted, and he used to entertain the principal members of Boston society there at dinner, though the company had to sit on the stairs and on the bed in one of the rooms while the table was laid in the other.

The clock on the steeple of the meeting-house of the First Parish was the gift of Mr. Dowse and his wife and her sister, in giving which they said that they wished to give something to the town which would benefit all sects and parties alike.

The late Edmund Quincy, the grand-nephew of Mr.

Dowse, and who subsequently became the owner of the property, in his admirable biography of his father, Josiah Quincy, gives the following interesting reminiscences of Mr. Dowse and his family: —

“Mrs. Dowse and her sister, Mrs. Shaw, were twins, and so closely resembled each other as to be undistinguishable, the one from the other, by their nearest friends, excepting by a slight difference of dress. The country people around were accustomed to speak of the three as ‘Mr. Dowse and his two wives.’ Yet they never spoke of them but with love and gratitude; for their bounty was only limited by their means, and their charity neither begun nor stayed at home. Any Life of my father would be imperfect without a tribute of affectionate remembrance to those beloved relatives, and, least of all, any written by me, who am daily reminded of them by the roof that shelters me, by the trees they planted, and by the river that they loved. . . . Mrs. Dowse and Mrs. Shaw did not change to the end of their lives the fashion of the dress of their prime; and they remained until long into this century in look and manner examples of the gentlewomen of the pre-Revolutionary period.”

Mr. Dowse was elected to Congress from this district as a Democrat in 1819, but disliking life at Washington, he resigned at the close of the long session and returned to Dedham. He died here in 1828, in the seventy-third year of his age. Mrs. Shaw died in 1833 and Mrs. Dowse in 1839, when the estate passed into the possession of their nephew, Hon. Josiah Quincy, and thence into that of his son, the late Edmund Quincy. Mr. and Mrs. Dowse and Mrs. Shaw were buried in the Dowse tomb in the village cemetery, and on the monument covering their remains Mr. Quincy, the elder, inscribed a touching tribute to their worth.

Mr. Edmund Quincy came with his family from Boston to reside in this house in 1840, and remained here until his death, which took place May 17, 1877, in the seventieth year of his age. Mr. Quincy was an accomplished and

elegant scholar, a brilliant writer, an earnest advocate of the abolition of slavery, a good neighbor and citizen. His memory will long be cherished in our midst.

#### THE SHUTTLEWORTH HOUSE.

This house stood at the junction of High and Church streets. It was built by Jeremiah Shuttleworth, the first postmaster of Dedham, and here the post-office was kept for more than forty years. For many years afterward it was owned and occupied by his daughter Hannah. At her decease, in the early part of the present year, she bequeathed the house, land, and ten thousand dollars to the Dedham Historical Society. The house has been removed, and upon the lot a substantial fire-proof brick building will soon be erected by the Society.

#### THE WOODWARD TAVERN.

On the estate formerly owned by Fisher Ames, near the corner of High and Ames streets, formerly stood the Ordinary, or Tavern, first kept by Joshua Fisher and his descendants from 1658 to 1730; by Dr. Nathaniel Ames, Sr., "the Almanack maker," from 1735 to 1764; known as Ames's Tavern to 1772, afterward as Woodward's Tavern. Here the Suffolk Convention assembled Sept. 6, 1774. Here Fisher Ames was born, 1758. The house was demolished in 1817.

From the early settlement and until a very recent period the Tavern was a recognized and, it may be said, an Ordinary institution of Dedham. But Woodward's Tavern became historic, not merely as having been the birth-place of Fisher Ames and the dispensary of good cheer, but as having been the place where the famous Suffolk Convention was organized Sept. 6, 1774, to which Dedham sent five delegates. A large committee was chosen to

prepare resolutions, and the convention then adjourned to meet at the house of Daniel Vose, in Milton, where on Friday, Sept. 9, 1774, Gen. Joseph Warren reported to the convention the Suffolk resolutions which he had drafted. They were read several times and unanimously adopted.

"Those who now or in after times shall examine the journal of the earliest Continental Congress in search of the first recorded resolution to try the issue with Great Britain, if need be at the point of the sword, will find the doings of this convention entered at length upon its pages, appearing as the medium through which the object of their assembling was first presented to their deliberations, and serving as the basis of their subsequent proceedings. The house of Richard Woodward most of us remember. In it was born Fisher Ames. Was it not the birthplace of the American Revolution?"<sup>1</sup>

*Site of the First Meeting-House*, built in 1638 on or near the site of the present Unitarian Church.

*Site of the First Episcopal Church*, on Church Street, near the grain store of Amory Fisher. Built in 1761.

*Site of the First Court House*, built in 1795, and occupied until the dedication of the new Court House, in 1827, on Court Street, fronting Meeting-House Common.

*Site of the First Schoolhouse*, built in 1648, and standing near the site of the Unitarian Vestry.

*Site of the First Jail*, built in 1795, and standing near the junction of Court and Highland streets.

*Site of the Law Office of Horace Mann*, standing at the junction of Court and Church streets, now the dwelling-house of Mrs. L. C. Weeks. Mr. Mann began the practice of law in Dedham in 1828, where he remained until his removal to Boston in 1835. He represented Dedham in the General Court during five of the seven years in which he resided here.

<sup>1</sup> Haven's Centennial Address, 1836, p. 45.

*Site of the Law Office of Fisher Ames*, built in 1794, on the corner of Court and High streets, near the Pitt's Head. The building was afterward remodelled and reconstructed as a dwelling-house. It was removed when the new Court House was built, and again when the Dedham Bank building was erected. It was a perfect sample of the old time country lawyer's office. After the death of Fisher Ames it was occupied by his son, John Worthington Ames, and then by James Richardson; and subsequently by Theron Metcalf, afterward Judge of the Supreme Court. The late Ex-Governor Clifford, Judge Seth Ames, and many other lawyers of eminence in this and other States there read law with Judge Metcalf.

## FINAL ACTION OF THE TOWN.

At a Meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Dedham held at Memorial Hall, April 4, 1887, —

Under Article 30, it was "*Voted* to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1090.29 to cover expenditures made under the direction of the Committee in celebrating the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary."

Under Article 34, it was "*Voted* that a committee, consisting of JOHN R. BULLARD, HENRY O. HILDRETH, JULIUS H. TUTTLE, ERASTUS WORTHINGTON, WINSLOW WARREN, and DON GLEASON HILL be appointed to take charge of the printing of the proceedings of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary, with instructions to print an edition of one thousand copies to be sold at cost, and that the sum of \$750.00 be raised and appropriated therefor."

At a meeting of the Committee appointed under the foregoing vote of the town, held on Friday, June 3, 1887, HENRY O. HILDRETH and WINSLOW WARREN were chosen a sub-committee to prepare and print a suitable volume of the Proceedings at the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Dedham.

## APPENDIX.





# I. — ODE AND VERSES.

FREDERIC J. STIMSON.

Music by ARTHUR W. THAYER.

ORGAN.

*Moderato.*

VOICES AND ORGAN.

*mf*

A - thwart the way our fathers laid, The sum - mer sun - light falls; The  
The har - vest falls from broader fields, The wan - ing woods are few; Food

elms our fathers set still shade The road, 'twixt church and pas - ture made; The  
for a world their homestead yields, All earth's op - pressed their shel - ter shields, A

*fp* stones their plough-shares first up - laid Still lie in mos - sy walls.  
*ff* na - tion's ner - ved arm now wields The truth that first they knew.

Down from the western hills our own Still roam - ing riv - er runs, Con -  
Be not a - lone a har - vest won Of gold, from la - bored hours; Un -

tent in Ded - ham's arms a - lone To lie and mir - ror spire and stone — The  
do not what their hands have done, Nor bind with wealth they sought to shun; Still

rob - in, to our fa - thers known, Still sings for us, their sons.  
ring the bells at set of sun, Our fa - thers' God, and ours.

VOICES. *Allegro moderato.*

*Unisons. f* For the ful - ness of earth, For the  
From sins of the few, From

*Unisons. f*

ORGAN. *Allegro moderato.*

*f*

light crimes of the sky, For their death, for our  
the man - y, From pro - phets un

*f*

birth, true, For the her i - tage high  
From rule of the pen - ny;

*p.*

Born of the word of light,  
Crime that ig-n'rance frees; Won by the deed of  
Lust, that is born of

might, ease; Saved by the sow-ing of sight — For the  
Hate that is born of these — From the

*Piu mosso.*

light in the eyes and the love in the hearts of men That  
curse of false lights and wor - ship of earth, and then

brings men to be brave in war, And true in the love of all  
Doubt and for - - get - - ting of God, and death of the

*A tempo.*

things — Glo - - ry of deed that is past,  
soul in men; Wealth that is ea - sy won,

Safe - - ty of State that is fast,  
Free - - dom, too soon un - done,

Hope that is now and shall  
Mal - - ice that masks the

*Maestoso.*

last —  
sun;

For the flow'r and the fruit,  
From con - - - flict of class,

For the  
From

*Maestoso.*

eye  
rage

and the word,  
false-ly stirred,

For the tree  
From greed

and its  
of who

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*Perdendosi.*

root, has, For the sleep of the sword,—  
From death of thy word,—

*Perdendosi.*

This musical system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for vocal parts, with lyrics written below them. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment, featuring a dense texture of sixteenth-note chords. The tempo marking *Perdendosi.* is placed above the piano part.

*ff* *Maestoso.*

We praise thee, our Lord!  
De - li - - ver us, Lord!

*Maestoso.*

*ff*

This musical system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for vocal parts, with lyrics written below them. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment, featuring a dense texture of sixteenth-note chords. The tempo marking *Maestoso.* is placed above the piano part, and the dynamic marking *ff* is placed below the piano part.

## II.

## ANNIVERSARY POEM.

AMONG other contributions which the unexpected length of the programme prevented utilizing on the occasion, was the following poem, written, at the request of the Committee of Arrangements, by Charles A. Mackintosh, a member and Secretary of the Committee until a few weeks before the celebration, when sickness enforced his resignation and absence from the proceedings.

Mother of towns! Thy children bow  
In filial reverence here to-day.  
The years lie lightly on thy brow,  
Thy locks but show the trace of gray ;  
And never sweeter were than now  
The smiles that o'er thy features play.

To us of later, busier days  
A thought old-fashioned seems thy dress ;  
Thy mien sedate, thy cautious ways,  
Thy standard of fastidiousness,  
Thy calm content if matters each  
Glide softly in the accustomed groove,  
Little accord with those who preach :  
"No matter where you move — but move!"

And yet, as when we turn our eyes  
From chromo-lithographic art  
To where, in fading lines, there lies  
Some work where truth alone had part ;  
Or when upon the wearied ear,  
Tortured with songs made to be sold,  
Deafened by cacophonous seer,  
Falls some grand harmony of old, —

We learn the lesson, needed sore  
In this our feverish modern time, —  
Leave not the foothold gained before  
Till surely, higher, may we climb !  
So, Mother Town, thine honored age  
The more endears thee to each heart ;  
We would not blot a single page,  
We love thee better as thou art.

I love not the historian's trade,  
In antiquarian dry-as-dust.  
Each spade need not be proved a spade,  
Some things we safely take on trust.  
The distant star, the sunset skies,  
The turbulent sea's sublime unrest,  
Have charms one may not analyze  
By any microscopic test.

What triumph for historic truth  
To make the ennobling facts appear, —  
This sage was flighty in his youth ;  
That hero partial to his beer ;  
This orator took snuff, and that  
Wofully shabby was in dress ;  
While yon, the great divine, waxed fat  
And fancied onions to excess ?

We gaze upon the far-off height,  
Robed in its own ethereal blue ;  
How vastly more sublime the sight,  
If at the time we only knew  
The northeast half was owned by Shaw,  
The other moiety was Bense's,  
And Shaw was threatening Bense with law  
Because he would n't mend his fences !



A larger brush, a hand more bold,  
Should paint the picture of the past,  
That when the story once is told,  
Each tale, unperishing, may last.  
Perchance my sympathies may err,  
Yet must I rank as one of those  
Who study Cromwell's character,  
And not the wart upon his nose.

Therefore, although some other hand  
Might many a blemish find, and flaw,  
From when thou craved'st the Indian's land  
And choused him under form of law,  
I see alone the purpose high,  
The courage stern, the steadfast aim,  
Which strengthening as the years rolled by  
Gave us a country and a name.

I see the spirit that awoke  
A George's petty tyranny,  
Till time was ripe, then snapped the yoke  
And made the infant nation free ;  
That moved resistless as the flood,  
To keep that sacred flame alive,  
Unsparring of its dearest blood  
From Sixty-one to Sixty-five.

Mother of Towns and Men ! We bow  
In filial reverence here to-day.  
May years lie lightly on thy brow,  
May health and peace be thine alway ;  
Be honored centuries hence as now,  
We proudly hope, we humbly pray.

## III. — PAGE 12.

## CHAPTER XXX.

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-six.

*AN ACT to authorize the Town of Dedham to raise money for the Celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of its Incorporation.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

SECTION 1. The Town of Dedham is authorized to raise by taxation a sum of money not exceeding one tenth of one per centum of the assessed valuation of said town in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, for the purpose of celebrating the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of said town, and for publishing the proceedings of such celebration, erecting tablets or monuments to mark places and objects of historic interest, and restoring and preserving any such existing monuments therein.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 25, 1886.

Passed to be enacted.

J. Q. A. BRACKETT, *Speaker*.

IN SENATE, Feb. 25, 1886.

Passed to be enacted.

A. E. PILLSBURY, *President*.

February 26, 1886.

Approved.

GEO. D. ROBINSON.

## IV. — PAGE 36.

DEDHAM has been well styled a mother town. From her ample territory at various times have been formed the following named towns : —

Medfield, incorporated May 23, 1651 ; Wrentham, incorporated October 15, 1673 ; Needham, incorporated November 5, 1711 ; Medway, incorporated October 24, 1713 ; Bellingham, incorporated November 27, 1719 ; Walpole, incorporated December 10, 1724 ; Franklin, incorporated March 2, 1778 ; Dover, incorporated July 7, 1784 ; Norfolk, incorporated February 23, 1870 ; Norwood, incorporated February 23, 1872 ; Wellesley, incorporated April 6, 1881 ; Millis, incorporated February 24, 1885.

Foxborough, incorporated June 10, 1778, and Hyde Park, incorporated April 22, 1868, contain a portion of the original territory of Dedham. Portions of Dedham were annexed to Dorchester and West Roxbury, and subsequently included within the limits of Boston. A considerable portion of the present towns of Natick and Sherborn was included in the original grant to Dedham. A subsequent grant of land to Dedham in the Pocumtuck valley was the beginning of the present town of Deerfield.

## V. — PAGE 66.

IN the "Dedham Gazette" of March 26, 1864, appeared the following article written by Mr. Charles C. Greenwood, of Needham, then, as now, a reliable authority in matters of local history : —

MR. EDITOR, — The following interesting scrap of personal history is copied from a small slip of paper, yellow with age, which has been preserved in the family of a descendant of Mrs. Chickering for a century and a quarter. Although the author's name does not appear, there is no mistaking the peculiarly minute and elegant hand of Rev. Jonathan Townsend, the first minister of this town. It reads thus : —

NEEDHAM, July 17, 1737.

This day died here Mrs. Lydia Chickering, in the Eighty-sixth year of her age. She was born at Dedham, in New England, on July 14, 1652, and about the year 1671 went up from thence to Hadley, where for the space of

about a year she waited upon Colonel Whalley and Colonel Goffe (two of King Charles 1sts Judges) who had fled thither from the men who had sought their life. She was the daughter of Capt. Daniel Fisher of Dedham, one of the Magistrates of this Colony under the Old Charter. Having lived a virtuous life, she died universally respected, and came to her grave in a full age, as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.

## VI. — PAGE 78.

THE following item is copied from page 10 of Dr. Ames's Ledger A:—

Israel Everett to Dr. Nath'l Ames, Dr. 1775, April 19th. To extracting a Bullet from the Cubitus of Israel Everett, Jr., which he received at the Battle of Lexington, the first of the War with Great Britain.	3 <sup>s</sup>
To sundry visits and dressings of the wound.	12 <sup>s</sup>

## VII. — PAGE 182.

THE movement for the preservation of the Powder House in 1859 originated with the members of *The Club*,—an association then existing in Dedham, and organized for social and literary purposes. At that time The Club was composed of the following members: DR. EBENEZER P. BURGESS, ALFRED HEWINS, HENRY O. HILDRETH, JOHN LATHROP, DR. JOSEPH P. PAINE, HENRY W. RICHARDS, JOHN D. RUNKLE, FRANK H. SHOREY, JOHN C. SHOREY, CARLOS SLAFTER, JOSEPHUS G. TAFT, ERASTUS WORTHINGTON.

A committee consisting of HENRY O. HILDRETH, HENRY W. RICHARDS, and JOHN C. SHOREY was appointed to make the necessary repairs, which were promptly done at an expense to The Club of about thirty dollars.

## VIII.

OF the men who were prominent in the celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the town's incorporation, almost all have passed away.

SAMUEL F. HAVEN, the orator of the occasion, was born in Dedham, May 7, 1806. He was admitted to Harvard College

in the class of 1826, and subsequently took his first degree at Amherst in that year. He was admitted to the bar in Middlesex County, and began the practice of the law in Lowell. He was appointed Librarian of the Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Sept. 23, 1837, and at once removed to that city, where he ever afterward resided. He received from Amherst College the degree of LL.D., and that of A.M. from Harvard College. He was a valued member of many learned societies. He died at Worcester on the 5th of September, 1881, at the age of seventy-five years, four months. Mr. Haven had long been regarded as one of the most eminent antiquarian and archæological scholars in the country.

Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, at that time Governor of the State, and the most eminent of the guests, was of Dedham ancestry, he being of the sixth generation in direct descent from Richard Evered, one of the original settlers, who died in 1682. Governor Everett's father, the Hon. Oliver Everett, was born in Dedham, but his distinguished son was a native of Dorchester. Edward Everett was Governor from 1836 to 1840, member of both Houses of Congress, Minister to England, and President of Harvard College. He died in Boston, Jan. 15, 1865, at the age of seventy years.

Hon. JAMES RICHARDSON, President of the day, prominent for many years in legal and political circles, died in Dedham, June 7, 1858, aged eighty-seven.

Hon. THERON METCALF, one of the Vice-presidents, after a long and distinguished career as a lawyer and judge, died in Boston, Nov. 13, 1875, aged ninety-one years and twenty-eight days.

Hon. WILLIAM ELLIS, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, was born in Dedham in 1780, and was for many years the leading land-surveyor in the county of Norfolk. He was much occupied in public affairs, having been a Selectman, Representative eight years, and a member of the Senate for Norfolk County for three years. He was two years Assistant Justice of the Court of Sessions, and from 1828 to 1835 a member of the first Board of County Commissioners for Norfolk County. He died in Dedham, November 28, 1852, aged seventy-two years.

General NATHANIEL GUILD, the Chief Marshal, was a native

of Dedham, and for many years prominent in town and military affairs. He died in Dedham, August 26, 1845, aged seventy years.

Of the prominent actors in the events of that day, only five survive, namely: IRA CLEVELAND, Esq., one of the Committee of Arrangements, and for many years a leading and respected citizen, now in his eighty-sixth year; and four of the Aids to the Chief Marshal, — IRA RUSSELL, in his eighty-second year; BENJAMIN BOYDEN, in his eighty-first year; JOHN D. COLBURN of West Roxbury, in his eighty-fourth year; and THEODORE METCALF of Boston, now in his seventy-sixth year. All these gentlemen participated in the celebration as the invited guests of the town.

## IX.

AS frequent allusions have been made in preceding pages of this volume to Worthington's "History of Dedham," the following sketch of the life of the author is herewith given: —

ERASTUS WORTHINGTON, the first of the name in Dedham, was born in Belchertown, Mass., Oct. 8, 1779. He was graduated at Williams College in the class of 1804. Among his classmates were Luther Bradish and Henry Dwight Sedgwick of New York, Judge Samuel Howe of Northampton, and Nathan Hale of Boston. After his graduation Mr. Worthington was employed for a time in teaching, and then began the study of law, which he completed in the office of John Heard, Esq., of Boston. He was first admitted as an attorney in Boston, but came to Dedham to reside in 1809. Here he began the practice of his profession, and was admitted as a Counsellor of the Supreme Judicial Court in 1813. He devoted himself exclusively to legal practice until 1825, when the Norfolk Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized mainly by his efforts, and he became its first Secretary. From this time he gradually withdrew from practice, although as Justice of the Peace he was the magistrate of the town afterward during his life. In the

spring of 1840, by reason of ill health, he was compelled to resign his office as Secretary, and in the autumn of the same year he removed with his family to Dayton, Ohio. In the following spring, however, he returned to Dedham, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred from chronic bronchitis, June 27, 1842. He left a widow and three sons, of whom Erastus Worthington, now of Dedham, is the youngest.

Mr. Worthington was actively interested in politics as a Republican during the War of 1812, and as a Democrat during the administrations of Jackson and Van Buren. He delivered an oration in Dedham, July 4, 1809, on "The Recent Measures of the American Government," which was printed. He was a member of the General Court from Dedham in 1814 and 1815. He was also interested in the temperance reform, and was identified with the anti-slavery movement in its beginning.

In 1810, Mr. Worthington wrote and published anonymously an elaborate pamphlet, entitled "An Essay on the Establishment of a Chancery Jurisdiction in Massachusetts." This was a brief legal treatise, comprehending a general view of the whole subject; and upon the excellent authority of the late Judge Metcalf, who was contemporary in Dedham with Mr. Worthington, it was the first essay published in the Commonwealth in favor of the establishment of an equity jurisdiction, which for a long time was viewed with disfavor by the legal profession, and which was not fully adopted until 1860.

In 1827, Mr. Worthington wrote and published "The History of Dedham from the Beginning of its Settlement in 1635 to May, 1827." This History was written at a period when but few town histories had been published, and besides some brief notes to historical sermons which related to church matters, nothing had been published concerning the history of Dedham. Mr. Worthington was the first carefully and intelligently to study the records of the town and of the churches and parishes in search of materials for history, and he gathered and preserved such traditions as were well authenticated sixty years ago. Moreover, he endeavored to exhibit a faithful view of society in Dedham in a retrospect of one hundred and ninety years. His History is not merely a chronicle of events, but these are connected

and treated in the spirit and method of a true historian. The narrative is concise, comprehensive, and accurate, though not so exhaustive and minute as in town histories written in more recent times. Mr. Haven, in a note to his centennial address of 1836, accords to Mr. Worthington the credit of first undertaking to develop the history of the town.













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